

## Egyptian committee approves ACC pact

CAIRO (Petra) — The Economic and Arab Affairs Committee of the Egyptian Peoples Assembly Sunday endorsed the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) agreement, which was signed by leaders of the four founding member states — Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen. The committee's approval was contained in a report submitted to the Peoples National Assembly for endorsement during its session, which will be held March 18. Egypt's national economy minister stressed the importance of the agreement, saying that it serves Arab objectives and paves the way for establishing an Arab market. Also in Cairo, a number of Egyptian writers and intellectuals have praised the ACC and said it would open the door for Arab writers and intellectuals to create pan-Arab literature capable of covering all aspects of divisions and split. Secretary General of the Higher Council for Journalism proposed that Arab writers and intellectuals hold regular meetings to exchange views and define strategic lines to enhance the innovative Arab work. The Egyptian writer Suhair Qasabawi said that integration is not a mere economic necessity, but a vital element for life.

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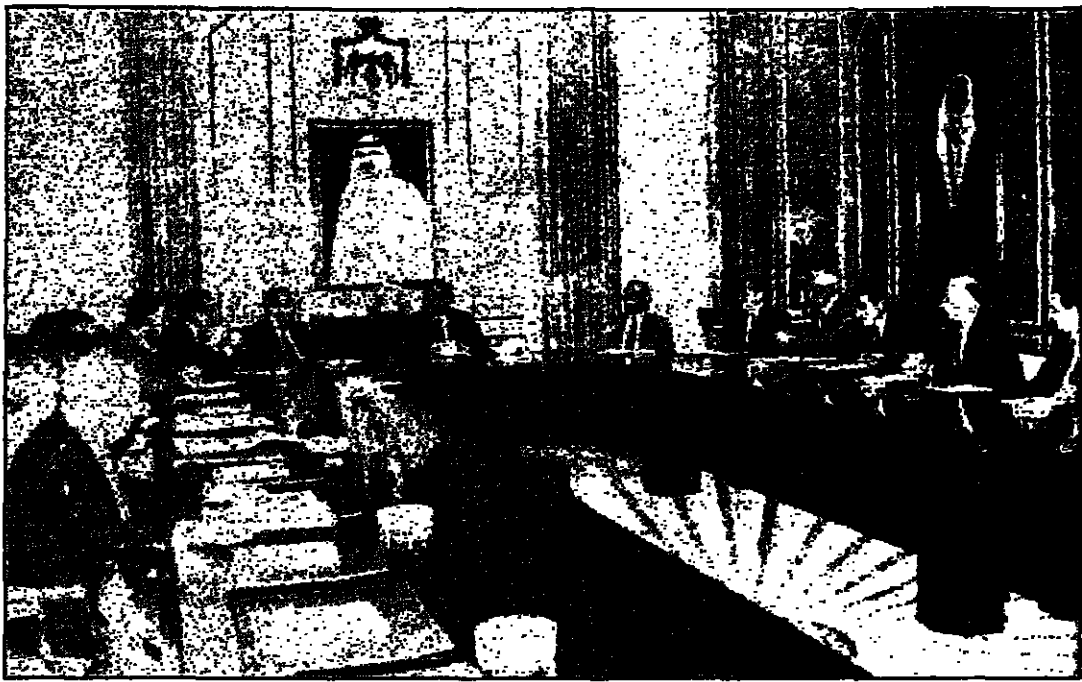
## Mahdi to form new government

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's presidency Sunday urged the quick formation of a new government committed to ending the civil war which threatens efforts to avert another famine. The Supreme Council, which acts as a collective presidency, said Sunday it had accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's cabinet at his request. It urged political parties and trade unions to speed up talks on forming a new cabinet within hours. Mahdi, under pressure from generals demanding either peace or victory in the devastating five-year southern war, told reporters a new government would be formed as soon as possible. The five-man council said earlier the cabinet's resignation would pave the way for a government representing all political forces inside and outside parliament. The main issue is whether the militant National Islamic Front (NIF), which wants a military solution to the war, will figure in a new administration. Western and Arab diplomats say the exclusion of the NIF could provide a better atmosphere for peace efforts.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday meets representatives of various Jordanian economic and financial institutions at the Royal Court (Petra photo)

## Regent approves creation of Unified Economic Council

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday expressed his approval of the creation of a Unified Economic Council as proposed by representatives of the various Jordanian economic and financial institutions to help coordinate different tasks involved in the process of stimulating the national economy. Prince Hassan, speaking at a meeting with these representatives at the Royal Court, said he would back the creation of such a council and he proposed the inclusion of the heads of the economic councils of the northern, central and southern regions of the country as council members, in addition to the constituent members. The council's idea was brought to the Regent's attention at a meeting following a series of discussions held earlier by representatives of the economic organisations, bankers, financiers, businessmen, industrialists and other private sector personalities to reach a formula to boost the on-going economic development process in the Kingdom. According to a statement here these organisations reached consensus on the formation of the council which would coordinate private and public sector efforts at the local and regional levels to promote the process of investments and boost national production. The council members are heads of various commercial, industrial, banking, insurance, tourism, transport and other organisations, as well as the Jordanian Businessmen's Association. Prince Hassan commended the efforts of the council members and said their efforts reflected a true exercise of democratic interaction and a responsible move designed to serve the nation. Present at the meeting was His Majesty King Hussein's private advisor Amer Khammash, Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa and Royal Court officials.

## Arafat 'ready to go to Jerusalem'

ROME (Agencies) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat says he is ready to "go to Jerusalem" to convince Israel to accept an international conference on the Middle East, according to an interview published Sunday. Arafat, in an interview with the Rome newspaper La Repubblica, also said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "will develop the dialogue underway with the American administration because much depends on Washington." "We will insist on having international peace conference on the Middle East. If the United States wants to convene such a conference, the leaders of Israel, those intransigent, even before the doves, will agree to it," he was quoted as saying. Asked how to break down Israel's resistance to the idea of having an international peace conference, with both the United States and the Soviet Union participating, Arafat said: "I am ready to follow (the late Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat's path. To go to Jerusalem. But I am not Sadat. I move with full consent of the Arab leaders. The late Egyptian president went to Jerusalem without Arab assent and support, making concessions on the right of self-determination for Palestinians. A right that did not belong to him. "If Sadat had taken his initiative with Arab assent and support, holding firm to positions of

principles, there would have been a Palestinian state today," Arafat was quoted as saying. "But he pushed too far forward, too much in a hurry, making too many concessions," Arafat was quoted as saying. Sadat's visit to Israel in November 1977 helped pave the way for the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Sadat was assassinated in October 1981. Arafat told the interviewer that he doesn't care that Israeli leader Yitzhak Shamir has called him a killer. "I am ready to negotiate with those that want peace." Shamir has said he would put Arafat in jail if he came to Jerusalem. Arafat was quoted as saying: "I know there is controversy about our fighters in southern Lebanon. This activity can be suspended. But on three conditions: That Israel stops the air raids, that it stops deporting Palestinians from the occupied territories, that it puts an end to the use of arms in repressing" the Palestinian uprising. In the interview he praised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, with whom he recently met. "Mubarak illuminates the path for us as a true brother." Arafat also said he received a letter from Chinese officials briefing him on their recent talks with U.S. President George Bush. "I must say that Bush has assumed an excellent attitude (about the Middle East). Encouraging," He

did not elaborate. The PLO leader urged the European Community to undertake constructive and concrete initiatives that go beyond information missions. "Europe backed Israel from the beginning. Now Israel forgets that and refuses every European initiative." Canada praises Arafat. Meanwhile Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark has praised Arafat for "courageous and constructive" peace efforts and says Canada is considering upgrading relations with the PLO. There "are very sound arguments that can be made for increasing the level of that contact," Clark said. "We are considering that now." He made the comments yesterday on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) radio programme, Morningnews, during which he noted that Canada is the only Western country that limits relations with the PLO to middle-ranking officials. Clark said that by not recognising the PLO, Canada could hurt its own recently attained role on the United Nations Security Council. "Canada has a role to play (in the Middle East). I don't want to exaggerate it. I do not want us to slip behind in our capacity to play that role. I am very conscious of the public concern that we are in danger of slipping behind."

## Ramtha development seminar ends

## Crown Prince urges dialogue for comprehensive development

RAMTHA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday called on all development councils in the country to pursue dialogue on a regular basis, with a view to measuring their achievements, noting that such a step lays the foundation for broad-based public participation.

Addressing the closing session of the Ramtha development seminar, held Sunday under his patronage, Prince Hassan stressed the importance of such meetings in enriching responsible local dialogue and developing it into a model for the broader and more comprehensive development. The Crown Prince noted that holding such dialogues on a regular basis does not constitute an end in itself, but "is meant to give these councils a wider role in building credibility with citizens, thus assuring them that the local administration's experience has developed and is taking a clear shape." Prince Hassan called on the local councils to act in line with the royal directives, as contained in the comprehensive development charter, and to maintain contacts with the Council of Secretaries General as well as the three sectoral councils represented in this meeting, to follow up on the new developments on the economic and financial scenes. "All development efforts — whether local or national — contribute to the goal of reactivating the economic sector's efforts, to help it adjust to the new circumstances and to increase development investment through an integrated programme, that covers all fields, such as science, technology, education and communications, in addition to institutional development," the Crown Prince said. Prince Hassan called for coordinating the efforts of the various government institutions through the Council of Secretaries General and the Higher Council of Planning, to organise the decision-making process. The Regent highlighted the importance of establishing the Unified Economic Council for the private sector institutions, saying that it ensures coordination between these institutions. Sunday's development seminar was opened by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi, who deputised for Prince Hassan. Hindawi said the government has provided the necessary services and facilities to encourage citizens to set up productive economic projects. He said that the Jordanian economy is now undergoing a stage

of adjustment, characterised by curbs in expenditure in line with the priorities set by the development plans.

This stage, Hindawi said, entails "strengthening our production bases with the aim of achieving self-sufficiency and increasing exports."

Hindawi highlighted the important role the private sector can play in setting up and developing productive projects, saying they constitute "the genuine pillar of the national economy."

At the conclusion of the meetings, a plan of action for three sectors was approved.

The local councils plan of action called on the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to set up an organisational council for Ramtha and to define its duties, provided that such a council be set up not later than April 15.

The plan also included the formation of a joint technical team from the ministry, Ramtha municipality and Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), to study means of improving and beautifying Ramtha.

The social sector's plan of action called on the Ministry of Youth to complete the Ramtha stadium before 1990. It entrusted

the Youth and Education ministries with building a multi-purpose sports complex and establishing youth centres.

Concerning labour and social development, the plan called for forming a local committee, grouping people from the Ministry of Social Development, Yarmouk University, JUST and the social institutions, to study the traditional industries in the district, with a view to developing them.

The plan also called for establishing a special education and rehabilitation centre.

In the health sector, the plan called on the National Medical Institution (NMI) to develop Ramtha Hospital and to draw up a long-term plan for curative services.

In education, the plan called for constructing school buildings and carrying out adult education and teacher training programmes.

The agricultural sector's plan of action called for defining the uses of water from Al Wihdah Dam with a view to meeting the basic needs of citizens in Ramtha district.

It also provided for establishing earth dams, drilling water wells, and undertaking studies on ground water.

## Iraq wants Egypt back in health council

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq urged other Arab countries Saturday to re-admit Egypt to the Arab Health Ministers' Council. The official Iraqi news agency said acting Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed cabled Moroccan Health Minister Tayeb Bencheikh, current chairman of the council. He asked that the council discuss the issue at its meeting in Libya March 18.

## Islamic states likely to resist Iran's stand on Rushdie

## OIC meeting begins today

RIYADH (R) — Iranian pressure for a tough stance over the Rushdie affair will meet resistance at a meeting of Islamic Foreign Ministers opening in Riyadh Monday. Arab diplomats and delegates said. Most states in the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) would rather focus on Afghanistan, the Middle East and other issues, they added. Muslims across the world have attacked Rushdie's novel The Satanic Verses as blasphemous and Iran has urged the OIC to take a firm stand on the issue. But OIC foreign ministers, while likely to condemn the book, are unlikely to follow Iran in calling for Rushdie's execution. Nor are they anxious to be dragged into an open clash with the West or give conflicts in Afghanistan, the Middle East, Lebanon and the Gulf second billing, the diplomats added. Saudi Arabia wants the OIC to formally recognise an interim government formed by Afghan rebels after last month's Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, but is unlikely to press the demand if most other countries dissent, the diplomats said. A draft agenda finalised Saturday contained no reference to the Rushdie affair after an item sub-

mitted by Iran on "cultural attacks on Islam" was dropped. But delegates said it could be revived later.

Iran boycotted an OIC in 1987 and walked out of the last foreign ministers meeting in Amman last year.

Tehran cut ties with Britain last Tuesday and has threatened similar moves against other Western states who condemned Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's call last month for Rushdie's death.

Iranian newspapers challenged OIC states Sunday to show their commitment to Islam by taking a firm position against the book and clarifying that they would retaliate against such attacks.

A religious official in Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim community, told Reuters

in Jakarta "hopefully they (the OIC) could do something to stop the Muslim's anger and not uphold the death sentence against the writer..."

"We don't have to follow Khomeini's call to kill him," he said.

Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) want the OIC to throw its weight behind Middle East peace moves.

"The Iranians might bring it (The Satanic Verses) up but there are more important issues the member states will want to discuss," a senior Egyptian official told Reuters.

Afghan rebels attending the meeting as observers hope to win the OIC seat of the government

in Kabul, whose membership was suspended after the 1979 Soviet invasion.

Only Saudi Arabia has recognised a rebel interim government formed after the Soviet military withdrawal last month. Several OIC states, including current chairman Kuwait, have diplomatic ties with Kabul.

Other items on the draft agenda include an Iraqi-sponsored resolution on Gulf war prisoners, civil war in Sudan, U.S. threats against Libya and the status of the Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in 1967 and later annexed.

The OIC meeting is the first since Iran and Iraq ended their eight-year war with a ceasefire last August.

## Israeli soldier stabbed in West Bank protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian protester stabbed an Israeli soldier in the West Bank town of Bethlehem Sunday in the latest of a series of attacks which could signal a new phase in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

The area commander told Israel Radio the Palestinian, stopped by troops for "routine questioning," drew a knife from a cardboard box and stabbed the soldier in the chest. The soldier was in fair condition.

Soldiers shot and wounded the young Palestinian with three rubber bullets before arresting him.

In the past month, one soldier has been killed in Nablus and another was stabbed in Ramallah. A paratrooper sergeant has been missing for nearly a month, believed kidnapped and feared killed, near the occupied Gaza Strip.

Military sources were reluctant to see a trend in the spate of attacks on soldiers.

But Palestinian sources said leaders of the 15-month-old uprising and Palestinian leaders abroad believed their cause had been hurt by firebomb attacks on Israeli civilians and expected a new emphasis on military targets.

The militant Islamic Resistance Movement, known as Hamas, described the Nablus killing and the suspected abduction in a recent

communique as "just a warning to Israeli soldiers and officers."

The leaflet also referred mysteriously to a second soldier whom it said was missing in the Gaza Strip. Military sources said they had no knowledge that another soldier was unaccounted for in the region.

Four petrol bombs were hurled at paramilitary border policemen in Arab Jerusalem early Sunday but caused no injury, police said.

When soldiers withdrew from the Gaza Strip's Sha'ti Refugee Camp, Palestinian residents tried with sledgehammers to demolish two Arab-owned homes which the army had commandeered as lookout posts.

"Shortly after the army left, people started smashing the walls, partly to stop troops using them again and partly to destroy the memory of the youngsters who were taken there and beaten," said one witness.

Army patrols re-entered the camp and opened fire on the crowd, wounding at least three people, he said.

Palestinian sources said troops shot and wounded at least four other Palestinians in Gaza Strip clashes and at least five in disturbances in the West Bank.

The army had no immediate report of casualties in the Gaza Strip but said two Palestinians were wounded in the West Bank.

## Jordan Arab Investment Bank opens branch in Cyprus



AMMAN — Having obtained the Central Bank of Jordan's approval, the Jordan Arab Investment Bank has received a licence to establish a branch in Cyprus.

To mark the occasion, a special reception was held at the Cypriot Central Bank premises Wednesday, March 8, 1989. In the above picture Governor of the Cypriot Central Bank Afentokis C. Afentokis delivers the licence to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the Jordan Arab Investment Bank Abdul Qader Al Qadi.

Qadi has said the new branch will be opened in Limassol and that it will start its operations in the near future. The bank's services will include the same commercial, banking and investment activities currently performed by the bank in Jordan.

The bank operations include the acceptance of deposits in different currencies, credit facilities, foreign exchange, buying and selling valuable metals, bank transfers, opening letters of credits, issuance of bank guarantees, administration of funds and investment portfolios in all currencies and other banking services.

## U.S.-Israel to discuss new peace moves

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is looking to Israel to begin discussing new ideas to end the Arab-Israeli conflict when Foreign Minister Moshe Arens visits Washington this week, U.S. officials say. The visit, including talks with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker Monday, is the first high-level contact between Israel and the new U.S. administration, which took office in January. It coincides with new dynamics in the Middle East that have spawned optimism among some U.S. officials and private analysts that there is an unusual opportunity for movement towards peace. A State Department Middle East expert said there is no U.S. pressure on Israel to produce a detailed plan for peace in the occupied territories where a 15-month-old uprising began. But he told Reuters: "We

would like them to think up some ideas... that are new, serious, creative, can challenge the Palestinians (and can) show that Israel is a leader in a movement for peace." He said U.S. officials believe Israel is seriously looking at the problem. Israeli sources in occupied Jerusalem said at the weekend that as part of measures designed to appease Washington, Israel was likely to reopen schools in the occupied West Bank soon and to release some Palestinian prisoners. The New York Times Sunday quoted an unnamed White House official as saying the Bush administration was also appealing to Israeli leaders to consider easing economic restrictions on Palestinians who have not paid taxes since the uprising started, and to end or limit administrative detentions of Palestinians. Arens's visit precedes one by

negotiating peace with Israel directly. By meeting U.S. conditions to renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist, the PLO forced Washington to resume a dialogue after a 13-year break. Raids by PLO factions against Israel have caused a strain in that dialogue, but Baker insists on keeping it going, despite Israeli pressure to end it. The White House official quoted by the New York Times said the administration had specific suggestions for the PLO on ways to ease tensions in the occupied territories. These included an end to violent demonstrations, anti-Israeli raids from southern Lebanon and distributing inflammatory leaflets. Arens is expected to press Baker further to halt the PLO-U.S. talks, which are scheduled to enter a more substantive phase at a meeting in Tunis within the next two weeks.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, expected in early April.

"What Arens has in mind is an exchange of views with the new administration," an Israeli diplomat said. "If and when new ideas come up, it will be when the prime minister gets here."

"(Arens will) come with an open mind (but) it's the first visit, so we should be realistic," the diplomat told Reuters.

He "will try to reach an understanding with the U.S. government, try to explore common ground and if possible to get coordination of position."

The uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has greatly intensified international pressure on both sides to move towards peace.

But Israel is widely viewed as more resistant. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has recently shown what some U.S. analysts judge to be serious interest in



# Najibullah appeals to U.N. as Jalalabad fighting continues

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — President Najibullah issued a new appeal to the United Nations to help bring peace to Afghanistan as rebel sources reported continued fighting Sunday near the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Najibullah's message to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, reported by Kabul Radio, also accused Pakistan of sending commandos and military helicopters to aid the rebels. Rebel sources in Pakistan said Mujahideen rebels were fighting near the gates of Jalalabad airport Sunday and had knocked out two tanks.

Thousands of Afghans were fleeing towards the Pakistani border 70 kilometres away to escape the shelling from both sides and bombing by Kabul government planes, the sources said. Independent confirmation was not available.

A senior Afghan officer told reporters in Kabul Saturday that the week-long battle for Jalalabad, the third largest city in Afghanistan, had caused the heaviest casualties of the 10-year-old civil war.

Lieutenant-General Abdul Haq Ullumi put Mujahideen losses at about 2,000, a figure dismissed by the rebels.

The Kabul government also denounced Saudi Arabia for recognising the recently formed re-

## Ramadan meets rebels

Meanwhile in Baghdad, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan discussed the situation in Afghanistan Saturday with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the foreign minister of the rebel Afghan government, according to state-run television.

The television said Ramadan expressed to the Afghan official Iraq's "brotherly feelings" towards the people of Afghanistan and stressed that Iraq stands firm in support of "an Islamic, non-aligned and united" government there.

The two sides agreed to continue contacts but did not say whether they discussed the possible recognition by Iraq of the interim government announced by the Mujahideen.

Sudan Saturday became the second country to recognise the rebel government.

The eight Shi'ite Muslim guerrilla groups which are based in Iran, Iraq's foe in the eight-year Gulf War, took no part in setting up the provisional government.

In a separate development, Malaysia will propose that Muslim countries recognise the Afghan rebels government at the four-day Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting in Saudi Arabia this week, Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said Saturday.

Abu Hassan told reporters he would present the proposal at the conference's official and unofficial gatherings. The conference opens in Riyadh Monday.

"I hope OIC member countries will accept the proposal and recognise the Afghan Mujahideen government," he said.

He said the office of the Afghan rebel representative in Kuala Lumpur would be upgraded to embassy level if the Islamic nations agreed to recognise the Afghan guerrillas' government.

The Afghan rebel representative in Malaysia, Mohammed Ashraf Armanjary, said he hoped Kuala Lumpur would lead efforts to persuade other Muslim countries to recognise the rebel government so it could become a member of the 45-nation OIC and the United Nations.

## Tehran accuses U.S. of Vincennes bombing

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper Sunday accused Washington of bombing the car driven by the wife of the U.S. navy captain whose warship shot down an Iranian airliner.

The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted Iran's daily Kayhan International as saying Washington tried to blame Iran for bombing the van driven by the wife of USS Vincennes Captain Will Rogers in San Diego Friday.

It said the attack "will not be the last (American) attempt to implicate Iran," Sharon Rogers escaped unharmed as her van was engulfed in flames.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said it was treating the attack as a terrorist act to revenge the downing of the Iranian airliner last July. Iran had vowed to retaliate for the killing of all 290 people aboard.

Kayhan International suggested that the bombing in San Diego was an attempt to create a climate hostile to Iran in the United States to justify the expulsion of Iranian supporters of Tehran.

It said the U.S. Senate last Wednesday discussed expelling Iranian students in retaliation for Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's call for the death of British author Salman Rushdie.

The 5,500-strong border police are widely feared by Palestinians, who say they are more brutal than soldiers.

While army conscripts and reservists represent a cross-section of Israeli society, there are no anguished intellectuals among the border police.

The troop replacement appears aimed at creating the impression that the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising is being brought under control and no longer requires a massive army presence in the occupied territories.

However there has been little decline in the casualty rate so far and the 400th Palestinian was killed Friday, according to an unofficial toll compiled by Reuters. Sixteen Israelis have died in the violence.

In the latest unrest, four petrol bombs were hurled at an Israeli border police patrol in Arab Jerusalem at dawn Sunday, causing no casualties or damage, police said.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday he was replacing army reserve units with riot-trained para-military border police in many parts of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank in an effort to reduce casualties.

The issues have also been raised by human rights groups including London-based Amnesty International and in a U.S. State Department report on human rights last month.

Security sources linked the apparent concession to the Arab lawyers in a campaign to improve Israel's image prior to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to the United States next month.

The sources said Israel was likely to reopen schools in the West Bank, closed for most of the uprising to prevent unrest by pupils, within the next few weeks to further appease Washington.

A decision on ending the closure, which has deprived more than 300,000 children of education for most of the last 15 months, was due to be taken later this week, they said.

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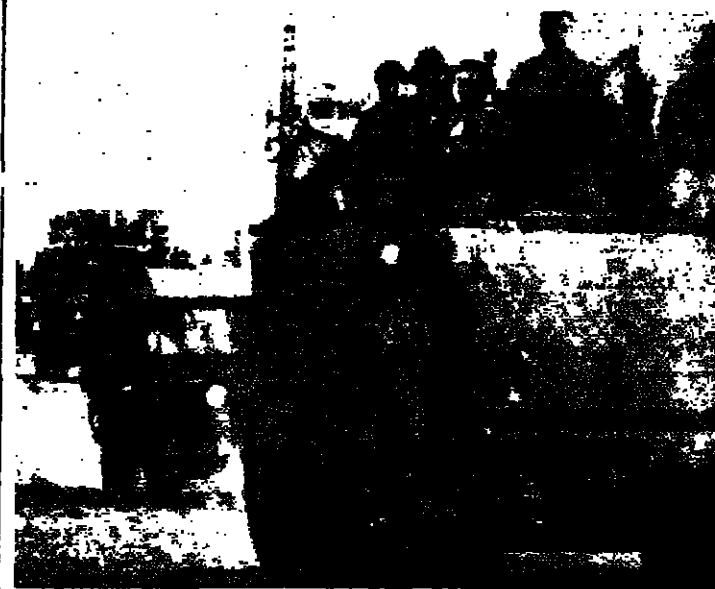
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A row of armored personnel carriers, jeeps and trucks, loaded with predominantly regular Lebanese Army soldiers, roll southward, Friday. Major General Sami Al Khafif, loyal to acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, ordered forces south to halt Israeli incursions.

## Lebanon fighting ebbs; airport remains closed

BEIRUT (AP) — Fighting between military and civilian forces, the worst in two years, ebbed Sunday but flight to and from Beirut International Airport, the country's only air transport facility, remained suspended.

The military cabinet under army Commander General Michel Aoun ordered the airport closed Saturday night, when fighting escalated into artillery duels that killed two civilians and wounded 17.

But Druse leader Walid Junblatt, who serves as public works and tourism minister in the civilian cabinet of acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, vowed to keep the airport on the southern edge of the capital operating normally.

However, airport officials said no flights have taken off or landed at the facility since nightfall Saturday.

Bulgaria's Balkan Airlines, the only foreign carrier with a regular flight to Beirut on Sundays, suspended its trip "pending further information from Beirut," an airport official said.

He said several regular flights to Europe, Africa and the Gulf by Middle East Airlines (MEA), Lebanon's national carrier, were delayed indefinitely as senior MEA officials met to decide whether or not to resume normal operations.

"They might decide to send MEA's planes empty to take shelter in neighbouring airports in the Middle East until the current conflict subsides altogether," said the official, who requested anonymity.

Hundreds of passengers, most of them Lebanese, crowded the departure lounge, waiting for the outcome of MEA directors' meeting.

The airport has frequently been closed during Lebanon's nearly 14-year-old civil war. Aoun's public works minister Major General Edwar Malouf cited "threats to civil aviation safety" when he ordered the closure Saturday.

Police said only sporadic gunfire was heard Sunday around the mountain town of Souk Al Gharb after a ceasefire was called at midnight (2200 GMT) Saturday. But many feared the hostilities would flare anew.

The latest casualties upped the overall toll to six killed and 32 wounded since the fighting broke out on Wednesday between Aoun's army units and Junblatt's Syrian-backed Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia.

Most of the daily hostilities have focused on Souk Al Gharb, 24 kilometres south east of Beirut, a mountain peak that controls a network of roads leading from PSP-held territory to Lebanon's Falangist heartland.

Souk Al Gharb's population of 15,000 people had fled the once fashionable summer resort town in the early stages of the civil war that broke out in 1975.

The hostilities spiralled into heavy artillery duels for six hours Saturday. Shells crashed into the Beirut port and around Aoun's command headquarters at the Defence Ministry compound in suburban Yarz, eight kilometres north east of the capital.

Police said 21 residential districts on both sides of the frontlines in Lebanon's central mountain range and Beirut's suburbs also were shelled, forcing thousands of residents to huddle in basements and bomb shelters all night.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops killed two gunmen in Lebanon during a clash overnight just beyond Israel's zone.

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Palestine embassy opens in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday opened a Palestinian embassy in Bahrain, the sixth in a Gulf state since a Palestinian state was declared in December. Raising the Palestinian flag, Arafat said "I hope that we will raise the flag on the Bahraini embassy in Jerusalem soon... I can see the Palestinian state is near, it is very clear to me." The ceremony to upgrade what had been a representative office of the PLO was attended by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa. The PLO earlier opened embassies in Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates.

### British royals head for Gulf

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana visit Muslim countries in the Gulf this week amid Islamic anger over Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses." The five-day trip to Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates was described by the Sunday Express newspaper as their most dangerous yet. It said they would be protected by bodyguards from Britain's elite special Air Service Commando Unit. Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, is to visit Saudi Arabia from March 17 to March 19 after Princess Diana returns home. Starting Sunday in Kuwait, Prince Charles and Princess Diana will carry out engagements ranging from business seminars, aimed at strengthening trade links, to watching camel racing. Buckingham Palace sources said Britain has long-established and close relations with the nations on the tour and it was unlikely the couple would face protests over Rushdie's book.

### Denktash leaves for Finland

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash left for Finland Sunday to discuss attempts to reunite divided Cyprus. "I will explain the latest situation on Cyprus," Denktash told the Anatolian news agency before leaving Istanbul. "Many countries have wrong evaluations... because of Greek-Cypriot propaganda." Denktash will meet Finnish officials and parliamentarians, a Foreign Ministry statement said. Ministry sources said he was likely to visit Malaysia, Pakistan and other countries in coming months. Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied a third of it after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by Greece. Only Ankara recognises the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state. Denktash and Cyprus President George Vassiliou have been holding U.N.-mediated talks since September.

### Libya hits chemical arms campaign

NICOSIA (R) — Libya has condemned complaints that Arab Nations were acquiring chemical weapons, saying they had a right to them until a total international ban took effect. In a commentary, the official Libyan news agency JANA said Saturday Libya supported a binding international ban on the development, production, storage and use of weapons of mass destruction. "What is not acceptable and we find outside the framework of logic is to have discriminatory measures banning something for someone else while permitting it for yourself," JANA, received in Nicosia, said. It said that foreign complaints about the spread of chemical weapons recently resumed. The U.S. State Department said Friday it was concerned that a plant being built in Egypt with Swiss assistance could be used to manufacture chemical weapons. Cairo denied it. The United States accused Libya of building a chemical weapons factory at Rabta in January with the help of West German companies. Tripoli said the plant would only produce medicines. JANA asked why Arab countries were repeatedly singled out to be told that they could not produce or keep chemical weapons.

### UAE merges two ministries

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to merge its Justice and Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministries, the official news agency WAM reported. It said the UAE President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan Saturday night accepted the resignation of Justice Minister Abdullah Humaid Al Mazroui and named Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Hassan Al Khazraji as head of the enlarged ministry. WAM gave no reason for the move, which came three years after the Justice Ministry was created.

### China official in Iraq for talks

BAGHDAD (R) — Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun arrived in Baghdad Sunday on the third leg of a Middle East tour for talks on Gulf war reconstruction, a Chinese embassy official said. He said Tian's team in Baghdad would discuss the conflict and Peking's desire to take part in post-war reconstruction schemes following the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq last August. China had close ties with both sides in the eight-year-long war. Chinese-made Silkorm missiles acquired by Iran posed a major threat to Gulf shipping in the last year of the conflict. The official said annual trade between Baghdad and Peking exceeded \$130 million between 1980 and 1988 with 10 Chinese firms in Iraq employing more than 9,000 Chinese workers. "We expect our participation in post-war reconstruction projects to increase even further," he said. Asked whether talks would cover the possibility of Iraq rescheduling its debts to China, he said: "Some of the debts are not paid because of Iraq's war burdens." He would not give the size of the debt. Having visited Iran and Turkey, Tian is to travel to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

### Turkey seizes 200 kilos of heroin

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police have seized 200 kilos of heroin and arrested 336 people in 158 drug raids since the beginning of the year, Anatolian News Agency quoted an official report as saying Saturday. The seizures, which included 1.5 tonnes of hashish, were running at a higher level than last year, the report said. U.S. and other foreign agents had helped set up a drug bust near Istanbul this month in which 80 kilos of heroin was seized. Anatolian quoted officials as saying, Turkey lies on a drug route to Europe from the Golden Triangle in Indochina and the Golden Crescent straddling Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

## West Bank lawyers end strike after improvements

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

Palestinian lawyers in the occupied West Bank have called off a 10-week-old boycott of Israeli military courts after receiving promises of improved conditions, attorney Jawad Boulous said Sunday.

The Arab Bar Association voted by a large majority Saturday to suspend the strike for two months to test Israeli intentions.

"The Israelis admitted that it was not a political strike but a professional strike to protest against the chaotic and humiliating conditions in the military courts, and they said some of our demands required immediate solutions," Boulous told Reuters.

Among the lawyers' complaints were long delays in bringing arrested Palestinians to court, failure to notify lawyers and families of arrests, denial of access by lawyers and families to detainees, and the almost automatic refusal of bail.

The issues have also been raised by human rights groups

including London-based Amnesty International and in a U.S. State Department report on human rights last month.

Security sources linked the apparent concession to the Arab lawyers in a campaign to improve Israel's image prior to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to the United States next month.

The sources said Israel was likely to reopen schools in the West Bank, closed for most of the uprising to prevent unrest by pupils, within the next few weeks to further appease Washington.

A decision on ending the closure, which has deprived more than 300,000 children of education for most of the last 15 months, was due to be taken later this week, they said.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday he was replacing army reserve units with riot-trained para-military border police in many parts of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank in an effort to reduce casualties.

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## FAO recapture — a turning point

By Maamoun Youssef  
Reuters

FAO, Iraq — Crows claw in the bloodied dust of the southern Iraqi town of Fao in search of scraps of flesh from the cadavers of thousands of Iraqi and Iranian soldiers who died on this Gulf war killing ground.

Iraq said that its recapture of Fao last year driving out the Iranian occupiers paved the way for Tehran's acceptance of the U.N.-brokered ceasefire in August after eight years of war.

Signs around the remote town ask visitors to be kind to the land which Iraq says is buried in the blood of more than 50,000 Iraqis and 120,000 Iranians.

"Fao bore the brunt of 6,800,000 shells, which we were able to count, fired by us and by the enemy during eight

years of the war," read the golden letters on the black seven-by-four-metre boards.

The Iraqis who perished "defended and liberated" Fao while those Iranian invaders who died "deserved no mercy," they say.

Once a rich source of Iraqi dates, the charred black trunks of tens of thousands of palm trees dot the scarred landscape.

Journalists on a government-organised trip to the peninsula joined schoolboys and government employees touring what Iraq calls the "symbol of victory" from its war with Iran.

An Iraqi officer who accompanied the visitors said missiles and bombs dropped by aircraft and other projectiles might bring the total number of shells that pounded Fao to about 10 million.

Iranian troops surprised a relatively small Iraqi force left

to defend the peninsula in February 1986 and thrust across the Shatt Al Arab waterway over a submerged pontoon bridge.

Iraq launched dozens of counter-attacks over 40 days but only managed to check the Iranian advance northwards towards Iraq's only naval base at Umm Qasr.

The Iraqis finally surprised the Iranians last year with a sweeping offensive that drove the invaders out and heralded a string of battlefield successes which ended with Iran accepting a ceasefire.

The town of Fao was small and sleepy, surrounded by sand and salty mudflats until the advent of the oil boom in the 1970s.

Most residents earned a meagre living from picking dates and selling sea salt. They were evacuated early on in the war.

Basra Governor Anwar Saeed Omar Al Hadithi said the more than 50,000 residents of Fao displaced by the war could return after compensation was arranged and help was provided to build new homes.

Virtually all the houses in the area seen by reporters were flattened. Other damaged buildings included two mosques.

A remnant of the Iranian occupation is a hospital built of pre-fabricated concrete slabs with a steel-reinforced ceiling covered with a camouflage layer of earth and trees.

Inside are an operating theatre, an X-ray room and about 40 wards with 10 beds to each. Each room is air-conditioned as summer temperatures exceed 50 degrees Centigrade with high humidity.

Soldiers said the Iranians fled so quickly last April that the hospital's equipment was

abandoned and captured by Iraq.

One of the three bridges built by Iranian army engineers over the Shatt Al Arab stands at Ra as Al Bisha on the southern tip of the wind-swept peninsula extending into the Gulf.

Part of the bridge that once joined Iraq and Iran had been demolished.

An Iraqi observation post looms over the destroyed end of the crippled bridge, flying an Iraqi flag and facing an Iranian position across 800 metres of water.

An Iranian soldier, visible through binoculars from the Iraqi post, stands on the other side, staring back into Iraq.

A dispute over control of the Shatt Al Arab was a major cause of the war and remains a central sticking point at U.N.-

sponsored talks in Geneva and New York for a comprehensive peace.

A burned-out merchant ship, the Ekyenne Xide, lies on its side on the Iraqi shoreline — just one of 74 vessels trapped in the waterway when the Gulf war erupted in September 1980.

Government-built oil terminals 20 kilometres from Fao which used to load supertankers at the northernmost end of the Gulf were also badly damaged by Iranian artillery bombardments.

The Iraqi government is planning a large celebration next month to mark the first anniversary of Fao's liberation.

An international appeal has been launched by Baghdad for money to help rebuild Fao. The Emir of neighbouring Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, donated \$10 million.

## DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION		
Tel: 773111-19		
PROGRAMME ONE		
15:30	Koran	
15:40	Programme review	
15:45	Children programmes	
17:10	Documentary	
18:00	News summary in Arabic	
18:05	World News	
18:20	Arabic series	
19:15	Local programme	
19:40	Programme review	
20:30	News in Arabic	
20:35	Arabic series	
21:35	Programme review	
21:45	Monday Forum	
22:20	Variety Show	
23:00	News summary in Arabic	
23:10	Variety show (cont'd.)	
PROGRAMME TWO		
17:30	Le Monde et A Voto	
18:00	News in French	
19:15	Weekly Sport magazine	
19:30	News in Hebrew	
19:45	Varieties	
20:30	Allo Allo	
21:10	Jack and Mike	
22:00	News in English	
22:20	Jewel in the Crown	
PRAYER TIMES		
04:28	Fajr	
05:45	(Sunrise) Duha	
11:47	Dhuhr	
15:47	'Asr	
17:44	Maghreb	
19:01	'Isha	
CHURCHES		
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 8187891		
Assemblies of God Church, Tel 632785		
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.		
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637441.		
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757		
Terrasanta Church Tel: 622368		
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623542.		
Anglican Church Tel. 625383.		
625343.		
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.		
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775281.		
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.		
Assman International Church Tel. 665326.		
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295.		
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822945.		
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264		
WEATHER		
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.		



## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**CONDOLENCES:** His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein Sunday delegated director of his office Turki Al Khreisha to convey his condolences to Mirza family over the death of the late Wasfi Mirza. (Petra)

**ROYAL DECREE:** A Royal Decree has been issued, appointing Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Zuhair Ajlouni as acting Minister of Culture and National Heritage during the absence of Mohammad Al Hammouri abroad (Petra).

**SENTENCED:** The military governor has endorsed a military court's verdict sentencing Mohammad Nizar Salim Qablan to eight years in prison and a fine of JD 5,000 after finding him guilty of trafficking hashish (Petra).

**MAYOR APPOINTED:** The cabinet Sunday endorsed the protocol of cooperation concluded last month between Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany, under which the West German government will support the seed production project in Jordan. The cabinet also approved the appointment of Madhat Mohammad Freihab as mayor of Kufranjeh in the Irbid Governorate (Petra).

**ZARQA ROADS:** The Ministry of Public Works has allocated JD 462,000 for the construction and maintenance of roads in Zarqa Governorate. The Public Works Department in Zarqa is currently making the necessary maintenance for a number of roads in the governorate, including Azraq-Safawi, and Azraq-Zarqa roads. Also in Zarqa a symposium on women by the year 2000 was held Sunday at Zarqa's Chamber of Commerce. The symposium was organised by the Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Zarqa branch of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (Petra).

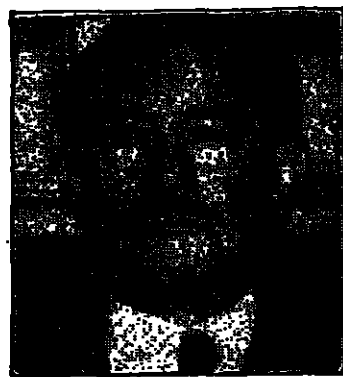
**REORGANISATION:** Balqa Governor Mujib Khreisha Sunday shuffled the development councils and sectoral committees in Balqa's development region to ensure the best interaction and integration among the various economic, social and social services and the maximum degree of public participation in the development process. For development purposes, the Balqa Governorate has been divided into four councils (Petra).

**ARAR REMEMBERED:** A symposium on the famous Jordanian poet, Mustafa Wahbi Al-Tal better known as Arar, and his contribution to the contemporary Jordanian poetry was held at the Royal Cultural Centre Sunday. The symposium was organised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage as part of its first poetry season this year. Taking part in the symposium were professors from the Universities of Jordan and Yarmouk. Speakers delved into Arar's personality, poetry and the unique features that characterised his poetry. Attending were Ministry of Culture Secretary General Hani Amad, and a number of ministry officials, in addition to professors from the two Jordanian universities (Petra).

## Wasfi Mirza laid to rest

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday delegated Mr. Amer Khammash, His Majesty King Hussein's private advisor, to convey his condolences to the Mirza family on the death of Wasfi Mirza, a former Jordanian minister and Parliament member who passed away Saturday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi delegated Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Zuhair Ajlouni to convey his condolences to the Mirza family. The body of



Wasfi Mirza the late Mr. Mirza was laid to rest Sunday afternoon at the Umm Al Hiran cemetery. Mirza, who died of a heart attack, was 75.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition by Noelle Shawa at Alla Art Gallery.
- A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Liebermann, Slevogt and Corinth at the Jordan National Gallery.
- An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizkallah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- An art exhibition by Riham Ghassib entitled "Jordan in Spring" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Yarmouk University.
- An exhibition entitled "British Books on the Islamic World" at the Yarmouk University.
- An exhibition of scientific experiments and applications related to scientific subjects taught at the secondary schools, at Mu'ta University.
- An art exhibition by Ahmad Ismael displaying paintings on Maqamat Al Hariri and Jordanian landscapes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### SYMPOSIUM

- A symposium entitled "String Literature" at the National Music Conservatory — 6:30 p.m.

### THEATRE

- An Arabic play on the Palestinian uprising entitled "Al Bilad Talbat Ahilha" at the Palace of Culture — 7:30 p.m.
- Arabic children plays organised by Noor Al Hussein Foundation Centre at Aqaba (for more information call 606992).

### FILM

- A French video entitled "Le 14 Juillet a Paris" at the French Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

## Jordanian bank to operate in Cyprus

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Jordan Investment Bank S.A. has been granted a banking business licence by the central bank of Cyprus to operate in Cyprus on an offshore basis.

A statement of the central bank issued in Nicosia on March 3, said Arab Jordan Investment Bank S.A. (AJIB) is the largest investment bank in Jordan and the seventh largest bank in terms of assets.

In the longer term AJIB hopes to expand its Cyprus offshore banking unit to constitute the main division of the bank's international operations.

March 9's offshore banking business licence is the seventeenth granted since the establishment of the first Cyprus offshore banking unit (OBU) in 1982. Sixteen other OBUs are already operating from within Cyprus. Amongst them the "Jordanian National Bank S.A.", which received its licence in 1984. Ten of these are located in Limassol, five in Nicosia and one in Larnaca.

Other foreign banks have expressed a similar interest to establish an offshore presence in Cyprus and more offshore banking business are expected to be granted in the near future.

## Queen Noor, Italian officials discuss cultural cooperation

ROME (Petra, J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor outlined Jordan's tourist and historical attractions and the Kingdom's vast treasures of archaeological sites in a live television programme here watched by some eight million people.

The programme was presented during the Queen's visit to the Italian capital which started Friday during which she also met with Italian officials to discuss cultural cooperation between Jordan and Italy and the restoration of Jordan's ancient sites with Italian assistance.

The Queen laid emphasis on the city of Jerash's past and present and the wonders of Petra as well as places of holy significance such as Mount Nebo and Madaba.

During her two day visit to Rome the Queen discussed cultural

cooperation, especially joint work through the Holy Land Mosaic School in Madaba which is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism. The Holy Land Mosaic School complex would include a school of mosaics where Italian specialists can train Jordanians to restore and preserve ancient mosaics and also make new mosaics.

Queen Noor also discussed upgrading cultural and touristic cooperation especially the development of the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre, which was initiated in 1986 with technical assistance from Italy.

The Italian government has agreed to provide 2,755 million lire to help establish the centre, which offers a three-year training programme in various handicrafts skills.



HM Queen Noor

Future plans include the restoration of some historical buildings in the city of Salt and the introduction of training programmes in traditional jewelry, metal work and glass work.

The Italian minister of tourism held a dinner banquet in honour of Her Majesty Friday which was attended by Mrs. Laila Sharaf, Jordan's Ambassador to Italy Tareq Mahdi and the secretary general of Jordan's Ministry of Tourism Mr. Nasri Atalla.

## U.S. grants Jordan sorghum worth \$27 million

AMMAN (R) — The United States is giving Jordan surplus sorghum worth \$27 million for use as animal feed in a move aimed at saving the Kingdom scarce foreign exchange.

An official of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) told Reuters about 236,000 tonnes of yellow sorghum, allocated from surplus U.S. stocks, would be delivered in five shipments between April and September.

"It's being provided on a grant basis, providing Jordan with a direct foreign exchange benefit," he said.

The government plans to sell the sorghum as a substitute for higher-priced imported corn to local wholesalers and retailers at about \$120 a tonne, he said.

The proceeds are to go mainly to development activities agreed by the ministry of planning and USAID. The official defined these as anything which might

help reduce the need for future food imports.

Economists have blamed high animal feed prices for egg and chicken shortages in shops this year. Corn, a main ingredient in animal feed, sells here for JD 75 (\$139) a tonne.

U.S. aid to Jordan amounts to \$15 million in fiscal year 1989, excluding the sorghum deal, and will rise to \$35 million in fiscal 1990, the official said.



Muharam in a refugee camp trying to make the fellahs understand the Palestinian dilemma.

## Al Bilad Talbat Ahilha:

## Acting upon the audience...

By Ghadeer Taher  
Special to the Jordan Times

WHEN is an audience not an audience? When they are actors. This has been the challenging and uplifting experience of Amman theatre crowds all week at the Palace of Culture, going to see one of Jordan's first stagings of an intifada play.

In a kaleidoscope of scenes, from past and present, the play "Al Bilad Talbat Ahilha" (the land called its people), follows the winding path of the Palestinian people from the simplicity of pre-occupation times to the turbulent days of the intifada. The play produces, or reproduces what the author views as the polarisation of Palestinian society by focusing on a typical Palestinian village, Umm Al Zeitoun (the mother of olives), and a social club, the Kit Kat — presumably in a nearby city — representative of the many elitist, Western oriented clubs ubiquitous in the Arab World.

The Kit Kat club invites Abu Al Izz, the respected village head, to address a show on the occupation, in which we, the audience, are the audience.

Through the characters of Abu Al Izz, his wife Jafra — the symbol of the land — Muharam, a Palestinian intellectual alienated and lost among his own people, and the hosts of the Kit Kat club, the contentious products of shallow westernisation, the playwright, Dr. Abdul Lateef Aqel effectively dramatises the complexity of the 20-year-old occupation.

Refreshingly, Aqel, not only attacks the Israelis, but also for our pathetic inability to free ourselves from our occupier's grip, our own fears and, most pointedly, the lack of Arab commitment to the Palestinian cause.

The show's criticism of Abu Al Izz's traditional dress and attitudes in favour of Western

norms highlights Aqel's contempt towards westernisation which allows you to discard your heritage for a more modern, "superior" culture. The love affair with the West, a disease many Arabs have been infected with, is mocked through jabs at its astounding superficiality.

Although, during the show, the hosts adopt the outward appearance of Western culture such as dress and language, they try to muzzle freedom of speech, that other "Western ideal" when Abu Al Izz tries to express his not-so-Western views.

Criticism of the lack of Arab commitment to the Palestinian dilemma is surprisingly aggressive when seen within the perspective of our society. In one very memorable scene, Abu Al Izz's teenage son, a symbol of the movers and shakers of the intifada, comes to take his father back home because fighting has erupted in the village. When the Arab showstop sees him coming on stage, he screams that the boy is armed. The boy's weapon, a slingshot, scares the hosts to an extent that they practically run off stage. Whom, in fact, does he scare?

The boy asks his father who we, the audience, are. Abu Al Izz replies that we are all friends and relatives. "If they are all our friends and relatives, then why don't they come with us to liberate Palestine?" asks the "naive" boy. Only then the realisation begins to dawn that the Arabs, both governments and people, lack the ability and, more importantly, the will to fight for Palestine. Abu Al Izz tells his son that we, the spectators, are too busy with our own problems, watching television and reading the newspapers; in short we are the silent observers. One of the play's many themes — that resistance and liberation must come from within Palestine — makes an impressive impact.

Another important point Aqel

touches on is the widening gap between the older, more complacent Palestinian generation and the restless youths who will no longer tolerate occupation or repression. Abu Al Izz is surprised when he returns to Umm Zeitoun to find his son in the midst of a battle with Israeli tanks and soldiers.

Another chasm of understanding among Palestinians is presented in one of Aqel's most interesting characters, Muharam, the intellectual who had been aware of the political reality and had tried to warn the fellahin about the Israelis and the impending disaster, only to find that they failed to understand him or his message. Muharam's alienation becomes so deep that in the end he is driven to insanity, forcing us to the conclusion that some misunderstandings can never be bridged.

Although the negative reverberations in "Al Bilad Talbat Ahilha" are widespread, perhaps because we have given Aqel ample material, the play, unlike many other depressing plays concerning the intifada, is sprinkled with lightheartedness and joy. Brightly coloured costumes, uplifting nationalistic music choreographed by Nazeer Shamma, sarcasm, well-placed malapropisms, and humorous jibes at our reality, together with cleverly planted actors in the audience, voicing our frustration — all succeed in making us laugh.

The last scenes of the play of the ongoing intifada with nationalistic songs in the background, the Palestinian flag ever so proudly waving most definitely touched every heart in the audience. We are left with a sense of pride at the achievements of the intifada, but unfortunately a sense of shame at how little we have done.

The play has now been extended for another week at the Palace of Culture. Performances start at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

## Smoking symposium ends on tough note

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium on women and smoking, which ended here Saturday, has called on the government to lift subsidies given to tobacco growers and to encourage food production instead of tobacco in Jordan.

The symposium also called on the government to impose strict penalties on violators of regulations which ban smoking in public places in line with the Ministry of Health's recently announced measures in this concern. Participants also urged concerned authorities to launch an anti-smoking awareness campaign to inform students and pregnant mothers about dangers of smoking.

The participants reviewed seven working papers about the negative effects of smoking on

women, specially on pregnant mothers and the dangers of smoking to society as a whole.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas addressed the meeting and urged the media and information services to take a leading role in the anti-smoking campaign.

The Health Ministry, Malhas said, is implementing measures to protect the health of non-smokers in cooperation with various government agencies.

Earlier this month, the ministry issued a ban on smoking in public

places in implementation of a 1977 law on public health, and said that violators of the law will be subject to strict penalties stated under that law.

The ministry's ban followed the conclusion of a seminar on means of combatting smoking held at Yarmouk University where participants urged the government to take all possible measures to protect public health from the dangers of smoking.

Malhas told Saturday's symposium that nearly \$3 billion were spent in 1987 on advertising for cigarettes, and quoted World Health Organisation officials as saying that \$50 million were sufficient in that year to vaccinate five million children in the Third World who die from polio and other child diseases.

## Demand for nurseries growing

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Social Development receives numerous applications every month from people seeking licences to open children's nurseries and the flow of applications reflects a growing demand for proper facilities to serve children, the director of the ministry's children and family department Zaki Ammarin said Sunday.

Ammarin said the total number of government-run and private-owned nurseries in the country now stands at 292 but it is on the increase.

Ammarin said that a nursery should be supervised by qualified teachers and maids trained for the job and should be managed by a fully qualified supervisor in accordance with ministry regulations. The government has been encouraging the creation of nurseries, and in 1974 it opened the first government nursery in the country, Ammarin noted.

He said that altogether the ministry opened five nurseries: two in Amman and the others are in Irbid, Salt and Zarqa, but has left the door open for the private sector to open and run nurseries.

Ammarin noted that the government has opened 165 nurser-

ies at government departments for the benefit of mothers employed by the respective departments who pay nominal fees for the service during office hours. The General Union of Voluntary Societies runs 39 nurseries, but the rest are owned and operated by the private sector, Ammarin added.

In addition to nurseries, the

Ministry of Social Development runs special centres to care for orphans and homeless children or those who live in very difficult environments.

Ammarin said that the Ministry of Social Development continues to shoulder the responsibility of supervising public and private nurseries so as to ensure their good services for children.

## Permanent industrial exhibition opens March 20

AMMAN (J.T.) — A permanent national industrial exhibition is due to open at Sahab Industrial City on March 20, and all arrangements have been completed for the opening day, according to a spokesman for the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

More than 60 Jordanian industrial concerns have registered to take part in the exhibition on a

permanent basis, displaying samples of their products, the spokesman said.

The JIEC announced that the exhibition site has room for 350 businesses that wish to participate in the exhibition and noted that many of the industrial companies established at Sahab Industrial City will take part in the exhibition.

## 29 participants from 12 countries

## RJ hosts top management course

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 29 participants from 12 countries are taking part in a three-week airline management and computer applications course in Amman organised by the Montreal-based International Aviation Management Training Institute in cooperation with Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline.

The objective of the course which started on March 3, is to provide airline managers with skills and knowledge in the use of computers as a management tool and applications in the airline industry.

The course is designed for middle managers in the airline industry, who are not computer specialists, and who have a requirement for increased knowledge in the use of computer technology in the areas of commercial services. It covers such areas as management concept and applications, specialised applications in airline market research and forecasting, route planning, payload control, yield management, product design, reservations, passenger and cargo services, corporate plan-

ning and fleet planning. Special attention is given to the area of decision-making with respect to computerisation, justifying computer acquisition, cost/benefit analysis, system evaluation and future trends in airline computer applications.

The course was organised specifically for the Middle East region and Jordan was chosen because of its central location in the area, its good conference facilities, the existing aviation infrastructure and the great interest shown by His Majesty King Hussein and RJ towards air transport in general and aviation training in particular.

The course is attended by participants from Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati (South Pacific), Mozambique, Nepal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

The International Aviation Management Training Institute is a non-profit organisation funded by the government of Canada in association with the Canadian aviation industry.

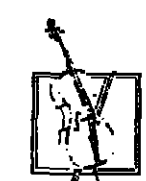
## Syrian minister visits JUST

IRBID (Petra) — Visiting Syrian Minister of Higher Education Kamal Sharaf Sunday called at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and met with its President Kamel Ajlouni and staff.

Sharaf who was accompanied by his Jordanian counterpart Nasereed Al Assad and the Syrian delegation was briefed on the university's development and activities and programmes, and discussed with Ajlouni prospects for bilateral cooperation and an exchange of expertise.

Sharaf and his delegation were taken on a tour of the university's campus and were briefed on various sections and different activities.

Before going to JUST the Syrian delegation visited the archaeological site of Jerash and heard a briefing by the Department of Antiquities director on city's background and history.



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## Humans' sacred right

THERE is no more eloquent way to describe the historic importance of the Hague meeting between leaders of 24 countries to protect planet Earth's atmosphere than to quote the words of His Majesty King Hussein to that gathering. In his address to the conference, His Majesty said: "The right of human beings to life is the most sacred of human rights. And the quality of life is an integral part of that right. That quality is being threatened now by the growing dangers to the Earth's atmosphere. Our beautiful planet, with which the Almighty God has blessed mankind, is being subjected to brutal attacks by modern man. Human beings all over the world have many things in common, but the one element that they all share equally is the atmosphere. The outer space of our planet belongs to mankind. It is not subject to the nations' territorial sovereignty or national airspace."

These words in fact reflect mankind's profound sentiment and concern about what is currently being done or undone to suffocate our planet and life on it with savage indifference to environmental priorities. Both the industrial revolution and the post-industrial era have brought mankind much hidden miseries and probable apocalyptic results that were unheeded for much too long. Coming as it did on the heels of the Brussels and London meetings on protecting the ozone layer, the Hague meetings serves as yet another pad to launch additional forceful campaigns at the highest possible level to save man and his planet from probable total destruction. The nature of the dangers confronting man and his environment are of such proportions that man can no longer be satisfied with pleas, appeals and even resolutions. In a 11th hour bid to go beyond mere pleas and appeals to save Earth's atmosphere from further destruction, begin the process of reversing the tide against the ozone layer and combating the "green house effect" caused by the emission of carbon dioxide and other gases, the Hague mini-summit made daring efforts to cross the threshold of effective measures in these regards.

By calling for more effective means and action-oriented measures coaxed in legally binding instruments, the Hague Declaration has gone further than any previous international effort to put environmental concerns ahead of all other endeavours and pursuits. Even more, the declaration specifically highlighted the need to establish a compensatory mechanism to assist needy countries in their endeavours to meet their treaty obligations in environmental concerns. It is only fair that the big industrial countries, which brought about the destruction of Earth's environment in the first place whether in outer space or here on planet Earth itself, should bear the brunt of the economical and technological responsibility to salvage mankind from the dangers and threats posed by the inhuman industrialisation and technological advancements.

However, due to the gravity of the situation in this context, and the global extent of the dangers posed, one would have wished that the Hague conference was attended by all the leaders of the world. To have all the leaders assembled under one roof for the solemn purpose of saving mankind and this environment from global catastrophe would have conveyed more persuasively and poignantly the global commitment to do something concrete about it. In fact, the Hague conference should serve as a prelude to an international summit for these purposes.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Sunday launched an attack on Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin for claiming that he has drawn up a plan for ending the current uprising in the occupied Arab territory. The paper said that Rabin has claimed that leading Palestinian figures have accepted his plan and that the government would discuss the plan in near future. The paper said that the plan entails holding elections in the occupied lands for the sake of finding a substitute leadership for the PLO which could negotiate an end to the uprising and a return to calm without having to involve the PLO in any moves leading towards peace. This plan, the paper noted, aims to minimise the importance of the uprising, draw a wedge within the ranks of the Palestinian people, create a new Palestinian leadership and prove that the projected peace conference is needless since the Palestinians and the Israelis can thrash out their dispute separately. The paper said that Rabin aims to create an autonomy rule which can by no means result in an independent Palestinian state.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises Washington's announced concern over Egypt's chemical weapons factory and says that it is ridiculous to see the superpowers criticising smaller nations for providing themselves with arms while they continue to stockpile all forms of mass destruction weapons. Tariq Masarweh says that even if Egypt is turning its attention to chemical weapons production what has this to do with other nations which themselves produce them. Though the major nations produce deadly weapons they continue to describe the Arabs as terrorists possessing dangerous weapons and committing violence, the writer says. He points out that the Arabs have been victims of U.S.-Israeli terrorism over the past 30 years and different Arab countries were exposed to atrocities resulting from the U.S.-Israeli alliance.

Al Dustour daily refers to His Majesty King Hussein's participation in the environment conference in the Hague which ended with the Hague Declaration. The paper quotes the King as saying in his address to the conference that a concerted international effort is required to put an end to the damage being done to the planet Earth. And, it says, the King has seized the opportunity of his presence in Holland to pursue his on-going efforts to achieve peace in the Arab region. The King's talks with the heads of state dwell on the on-going efforts to reach an Arab-Israeli peace settlement. Jordan is proud that it has been chosen along with carefully selected nations to discuss the world environment and sign the declaration and is also proud of the monarch's continued endeavours to help bring about peace to the Middle East.

### Weekly Political Pulse

## Right step on right direction

By Waleed Sadi

ARABS in the Maghreb and Mashreq have over the years grown to be sceptical about all attempts at forging institutionalised Arab unity in view of all repeated and contemporary setbacks in that direction. That is why all grandiose schemes to unite the Arab forces have thus far been treated with ridicule and a touch of cynicism if not with contempt by the Arabs. Yet to hear Prime Minister Zaid Rifai last Wednesday describe the solid foundations of the newly created Arab Cooperation Council and the full support that the council enjoys from its four member states, one gets the distinct impression that this time around the articulation and adoption of the new Arab unity scheme is as genuine and effective as one can get it to be under the prevailing circumstances. To paraphrase Mr. Rifai's words in this context, the construction and development of the council was not designed to be propelled by one giant leap forward. Rather it is designed to be built up one tier at a time so that every step of the way is carefully gauged, scrutinised and verified to make sure it is strong and viable enough to support the next unity layer on the way to complete coordination and cooperation. In other words, the Arab Cooperation Council would be provided with a built-in system to evolve the whole structure as the years go by and the experiences generated by the earlier phases of construction are added up. Given these assurances, the Arab Cooperation Council would grow and develop to the extent that circumstances and conditions, prevailing between the four countries concerned, would allow. It also follows that no new measures would be forced onto the new edifice of unity. Rather every step of the way will be gently, earnestly and pragmatically nursed till full fruition is realised. It would be naive therefore to expect the infrastructure of the ACC to be completed in few months or even few years. There is a lot to be done and accomplished along the way. To begin with systems of communication and means of transportation between the four

countries have a long way to go before they can cement the relations between them in a fashion that is necessary to shape the future of the union. For a start, the peoples of the four countries need a network of rail, air and even sea systems of transportation to facilitate contacts, trade and exchange of ideas and views between them. As long as the citizens of these countries remain isolated from one another, materially and intellectually, not to mention socially and economically, the union between them would remain more sham than real. Thus mobility between the four countries needs to be assured on both intellectual and material levels.

The next set of hurdles that need to be overcome are politically related in the sense that the existing political will that is currently propelling the union should remain potent and effective in the long run as well. The on-going meeting of minds between the four respective governments can be strengthened and consolidated as soon as the appropriate machinery and institutions are established for that purpose. One must be prepared for setbacks here and there and now and then. This is normal no matter how much preparedness has painstakingly been made. The European Economic Community encountered endless problems and obstacles that looked at first glance so formidable as to wreck what was already accomplished. But with perseverance all the European problems were rectified. In the Arab World we have a habit of panicking every time we confront a big problem along the path of our unity schemes. It would be wise, therefore, if built-in systems can be incorporated into the edifice of the union before hand in order to serve as corrective machinery when the time comes. In this context, a body of laws must be legislated in this regard coupled with some judicial machinery to adjudicate disputes that are sure to arise once in a while between the parties. It is

paramount in this context to expand on the charter of the ACC by incorporating detailed laws and regulations that could prove sufficient to cope with the multitude of issues, both political and juridical, that will arise in the future.

In relation to the outside world, at one time or another there need to be some additional reflection on how to unify the diplomatic representations of the four countries in certain areas and in select capitals. Of course this is rather a very futuristic programme. Meanwhile the ACC must start thinking of having diplomatic representation in key diplomatic centres such as New York, Geneva, Paris, Moscow, London, Brussels, Washington, Peking, Tokyo, Bonn. Such initial pooling of diplomatic representations could serve as experimental ground work for the futuristic unification of diplomatic efforts. For this initial diplomatic unification, the ACC will of course strive to receive recognition from the countries where it chooses to be collectively represented.

To be sure there is a score of other issues and matters that need to be provided for in due course. To start reflecting on potential problems before they occur would be one sure way of knowing how to deal with them once they develop. But no matter how hard and difficult is the road ahead, the ACC is a goal that calls for the support of not only the governments of the four Arab countries but also their respective people and their private institutions. The Arab peoples concerned are called upon to work diligently for their union and act on it with deep conviction, faith and trust. In the final analysis these people could make or break the union. The Arab dream for unity must not be allowed once again to be derailed by undue scepticism or unjustified negativism. Now is the time to pool all the resources of the four countries to make this Arab aspiration a reality come what may.

## New Soviet direction in the Middle East

By Liesl Graz

THE visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to five Middle Eastern countries has focussed attention on the new directions being taken by the Soviet Union in the region. Leaving aside the present and future role of the Soviet Union in a possible process of peace-making, the events involving the USSR in the Middle East since 1985, the first full year of Gorbachev's leadership, are revealing.

In 1985, Soviet stock in the Middle East was low, with the exception of the then still-existent "rejection front": Syria, South Yemen, Algeria, Libya, and the PLO. Relations with Egypt were practically at rock bottom and not only because of Egypt's ostracism by Moscow's friends. Anwar Sadat had been a master at rubbing up the Soviets the wrong way and President Mubarak was just beginning to think about improving relations with the country where he had studied in the late 1950s. Even though arms deliveries to Iraq had been resumed in 1982 (they were cut at the beginning of the war in 1980), the 1972 treaty of friendship and cooperation was not enough to guarantee friendly relations. Iraq had not hesitated to condemn the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and since then things had never been the same.

### The turning point

In the Arabian peninsula, 1985 was a turning point. In September, Oman announced that it was establishing diplomatic relations with the USSR; until then it was probably the most strongly anti-Soviet of all the Arab states, with the arguable exception of Saudi Arabia. The surprise was total. Neither the British nor the Americans had any warning; the latter were furious, the former thought that it was a normal development. The reasons given by Oman are worth looking at, because they were premonitory of the spreading change in thinking toward the Soviet Union.

First, the Soviet Union was no longer perceived as a direct threat; in Oman's case by being convinced that the USSR was no longer working through South Yemen to destabilise the Sultanate and the Gulf. Second, by 1985 the Soviets were visibly bogged down in Afghanistan, visibly enough for the scare-talk of seeking an outlet to the warm seas, fomenting revolution in Baluchistan and heading for the Gulf oil fields to seem like old hat. Third, and this element was less openly acknowledged, there was, even in the Gulf, a premise of disenchantment with the United States: too many real or perceived slaps in the face over arms deals, too much taking-for-granted and, even before the Iran-contra affair hit the public eye, a vague sense that all was not well in that quarter.

From there on, bit by bit, the Soviet Union began its quiet entry into the so-called moderate Middle East. There was the Kuwaiti charter of Soviet tankers in January 1987 (Kuwait was the only Gulf country to have maintained normal relations with the Soviet Union since independence) and the interesting fact that the Soviet ships delivering arms destined for Iraq were able to continue steaming up the Gulf regularly, approximately once a month, without ever being stopped.

In the meantime, the UAE followed Oman in establishing fairly enthusiastic relations with the Soviet Union, as it had

wanted to do for years, but, each time had been dissuaded by Saudi Arabia. Last summer, after the United States rather awkwardly asked for explanations about 20-odd Stingers acquired on the open market, Qatar followed suit. That leaves only Bahrain and Saudi Arabia; and Bahrain has been edging toward indirect relations, trade, even some tourism.

### The Saudis hold back

Saudi Arabia is, of course, the big piece missing from the puzzle. Although there have been several ministerial visits to Moscow since 1986 and, in early 1988, exploratory talks on going further, the step has not yet been taken. The Saudi special relationship with the U.S. no longer stands in the way. Nor, one might think, the problem of Soviet opposition to religion in general: "scientific atheism" is a doctrine of the past, and the practice of Islam like that of Christianity has, by all accounts, become practically normal (except, perhaps, for pilgrimage permits).

On one point the interests of the kingdom would seem to mesh perfectly with those of the Soviet Union: to contain Iran and the influence of the Iranian brand of Islam. But that has not been enough yet to counter Saudi worries about the future of Afghanistan, even after the Soviet retreat. It was not by accident that last November's meeting between the Mujahedin leaders and Yuri Vorontsov, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, was held in Taif. The symbolism of the proximity to Mecca seemed obvious. As for Vorontsov, since 1985 he has been the chief architect of the new Soviet policy in the Arab peninsula (as well as being negotiator on Afghanistan and now Soviet ambassador to Kabul) and has become a familiar figure in the Gulf capitals.

### Relations with Yemen

There is another point on which latent misunderstanding remains: South Yemen. With or

without reason, both Yemens, North and South, continue to worry Saudi Arabia. The rapprochement between the two which seemed promising last autumn has run into problems. These problems were certainly not fomented directly by the USSR, although the question of Soviet military presence remains thorny for all concerned. The civil war in Aden in 1986 coincided with the process of the Soviet thaw and once the dust settled, the Soviets quietly tried to make themselves less visible without leaving completely. In the last year they have suggested, for example, that the Germans take over development projects which they used to run themselves — the West Germans, that is. However, it is still the Soviet Union which got the operating contract for the first oil fields

which should be coming on stream in 1990. The status of the military installations is not quite clear; the Soviet presence on the island of Socotra is almost certainly less strong than some Western media have announced, but it does exist and it is still too much for the Saudis (or for that matter, the North Yemenis, in case of eventual reunification) to stomach.

### Damascus and Baghdad

After the long years of fear of the Soviet presence in the Middle East, the Soviets have become almost reassuring, moderating figures. The clichés have gone: with the demise of the "irresistible drive to the warm seas" another seems to be fraying at the edges, the immutable friendship, or alliance, with Syria. If a choice had to be made — and it is a

choice that the Soviet Union would like to avoid — between Damascus and Baghdad, the latter would probably come out on top. Syria depends on the Soviet Union for its arms, but it is not getting all it would like. Nor is it willing to act like a simple satellite, as Lebanon unfortunately shows.

The situation with Iraq is more complex still. Despite the friendship treaty, there is little trust between the two countries. They are ready to use each other for what they can get out of it, no more and no less. Iraq is a better market than Syria and it needs the Soviet Union to build up its arms industry. Western suppliers have had to wait, sometimes for years, to be paid by Iraq, but the Soviets have been getting hard currency promptly for their military hardware; not much else is

now bought from the USSR.

The Iraqis are also the Soviet Union's fallback for a situation in Iran with which they are far from happy. It is less the Islamic Republic as such that seems to bother them than the fact of an unstable neighbour. Because, in the final analysis, the Soviet Union's priority in the Middle East seems to be stability and not, as was long thought, influence as such. In fact, since its first concern, like that of the United States, is still with East-West relations, the Middle East could just, in Soviet eyes, be one more road to good relations with the Americans. In an interview on French television on February 22, Israeli Prime Minister Shamir hinted that he thought as much — and seemed worried by the prospect — Middle East International, London.

## Japan leads aid donors

IT IS not only on the international political plane that recent developments have engendered optimism. In their own way both the Japanese government and the World Bank have also brought some welcome cheer to the global economic scene.

The Japanese cabinet has approved a 7.8 per cent rise in its Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme for 1989-90 financial year. Amongst other things this is expected to mean that Japan will retain its title as the world's leading aid donor.

Meanwhile, according to the World Bank, the 4.5 per cent average economic growth achieved among the ten member-states of the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference last year outstripped the population increase (3.3 per cent) for the first time in 15 years.

This is welcome news, not least symbolically in that it breaks a stubborn vicious circle for these countries. But it is another sign that sub-Saharan African governments are beginning to reap some benefit from their economic re-

forms. The boosting of Japan's official aid is in line with Premier Takeshita's pledge that his country would contribute at least \$50 billion in ODA between now and 1992.

According to the Foreign Ministry officials in Tokyo, the increase would enable the government to fulfil its promise to cancel \$226 million worth of debts owed by the poorest developing nations as well as to launch a programme of grants for small-scale projects in the Third World.

The Japanese believe that last year they replaced the United States as the largest individual aid giver. They claim that if private capital flows are taken into account, Japan now channels far more money than anyone else into the developing countries.

In 1987 — the latest year for which the figures are available — its official aid totalled almost \$7.5 billion, as against the US's \$8.9 billion. By then Japan was contributing 18 per cent of total ODA aid as against two per cent in 1962.

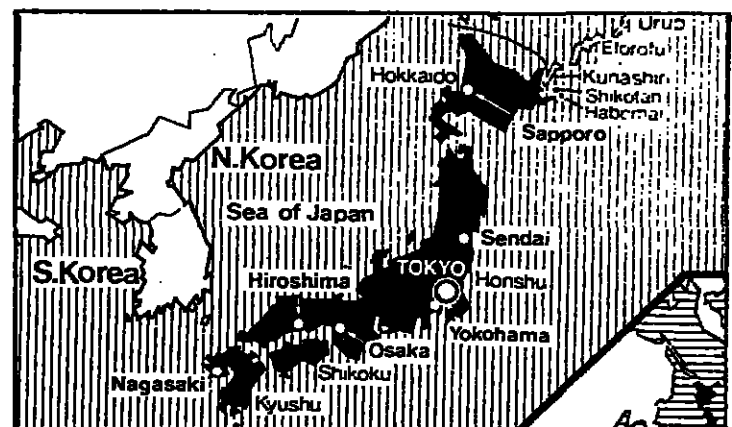
ODA, which accounts for 80 per cent of global economic assistance, is provided by the 18 leading member-countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. These are the major Western industrialised nations and Japan.

By 1987, the Japanese had also become by far the biggest donor to the World Bank, the regional development banks and other United Nations' agencies. Their

contributions totalled \$2.2 billion compared with the slightly less than \$2 billion provided by the U.S.

Most of Japan's bilateral economic aid has been directed towards Asia and Oceania, but it is now devoting increasing attention to sub-Saharan Africa.

Behind Japan's emergence as the foremost aid giver lies its striking economic success and the resultant huge trade surpluses — Lion Features.



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## Festival trust lives through fund crisis

The World of Islam Festival Trust has survived on a shoestring budget since it was created in 1973. It has launched a new appeal for funds in order to pursue its goal of promoting greater understanding of Islam in the West.

By Mamreen Ali

LONDON — Until now, Alistair Duncan, director of the World of Islam Festival Trust, has subscribed to the wisdom of keeping a low profile, while beavering away in his unassuming little office in London's South Kensington. "It seemed to be the right thing to do," said Duncan in an interview, "since we never knew how long we would keep going."

Now, out of frustration — almost desperation — he has decided to go public and issue a wide appeal for support for the Trust's valuable work in promoting a greater understanding of Islam in the West. "I have been appealing all year to the Muslim governments for support," said Duncan, "and not one piastre has been forthcoming. If we are to continue, and I believe we ought to, then we have got to generate more finances."

The World of Islam Festival Trust was formed in London in 1973 under the chairmanship of the former British diplomat, Sir Harold Beeley, "to make an important and permanent contribu-

tion towards a new understanding of Islamic and Muslim civilisation in the Western hemisphere."

The trust's credentials were established with the 1976 World of Islam Festival which was opened in London by Queen Elizabeth II. The festival lasted for three months and was attended by leading dignitaries from many parts of the world, including the Sheikh of Al Azhar University in Cairo, who was received by the head of the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

### Media coverage

The festival comprised exhibitions in major London galleries, conferences, concerts, films and lectures as far afield as Edinburgh and Exeter. It drew a large and receptive audience and generated substantial press, radio and television coverage.

Writing about the event, Sir Harold Beeley said, "It is hoped that the festival enlarged the opening in the West to Islamic culture, and will stimulate further and more thorough exploration of its specific forms. The World of Islam Festival Trust intends to

play a continuing part in this endeavour."

In the intervening 13 years, that was exactly the trust's role, albeit in a discreet fashion. Some 21 exhibitions, 16 publications, seven films and a wide range of talks, lectures, academic and other supporting activities materialised on a shoe-string budget.

From one year to the next, the trust limped along on a modest £60,000 budget, 90 per cent of it spent directly on projects. But by 1987 funds began to dry up and the future of the trust seemed to be in question.

"A lot of people will not miss us until we disappear," said Duncan. "There is not always concrete evidence of what we are doing. We are not building mosques, we do not have a political role, so it is hard to quantify our work. I see us as a catalyst, a channel, a conduit pulling people together. We provide education and knowledge, we offer information, scholarships, bursaries."

"Because of WIFT," he said, "all sorts of people have achieved their objectives, they have shown that barriers can come down. WIFT has helped to present a face of Islam which Muslims and non-Muslims alike can enjoy, can relate to and identify with. WIFT

has facilitated a cross-fertilization of ideas, a cultural interface which has led to a greater understanding, but there can be no commercial advantage in supporting us, no material gain."

Although Duncan's appeals to governments have been without success, there will be a reprieve for another year, thanks to an assortment of donors which include the Libyan Jamiat Ad Dawaa al Islamiyye (which has pledged itself to establishing stronger links with the Christian world); the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce in London; the Arab Ambassadors Council in London and a group of Arab businessmen who prefer to remain anonymous. Duncan's own salary is furnished by a private donation and for the moment remains outside WIFT's minimal budget of £45,000 for 1989.

### Much potential

"There is a great reluctance among Islamic organisations to help us, even though we are doing a lot to help them," said Duncan. "So how are we to plan for the future? There is so much potential, yet we are unable to fulfil it. Our contacts are so wide-ranging."

"We have had requests from schools and arts and educational organisations for help in explor-

ing how to present information or even prepare educational programmes on Islam. We have helped post-graduate students from the Middle East to complete their research. We have set up a Lectureship in Islamic Art and Architecture at Oxford University."

"We have given financial support to important Islamic libraries and research facilities such as the Chest Beatty Library in Dublin and the Crosswell Memorial Library in Cairo. We have arranged exchange visits between students from the U.K. and the Middle East. There have been important exhibitions in London, Paris, and Helsinki, and just recently we sponsored an Islamic Calligraphy exhibition from Geneva on a tour to London, Zurich and Amman."

The list is ongoing. WIFT's high-quality publications are classics in their field. The recent *Mamluke Jerusalem* (623 pages; £115) is the result of a 15-year survey of Jerusalem by the British School of Archaeology there. It provides definitive evidence of the city's rich Islamic heritage and is a work of unique scholarship. So, too, is the magnificent 640-page *Sana'a, An Arabian Islamic City*, priced at £105.

"We actually publish the unpublishable," said Duncan.

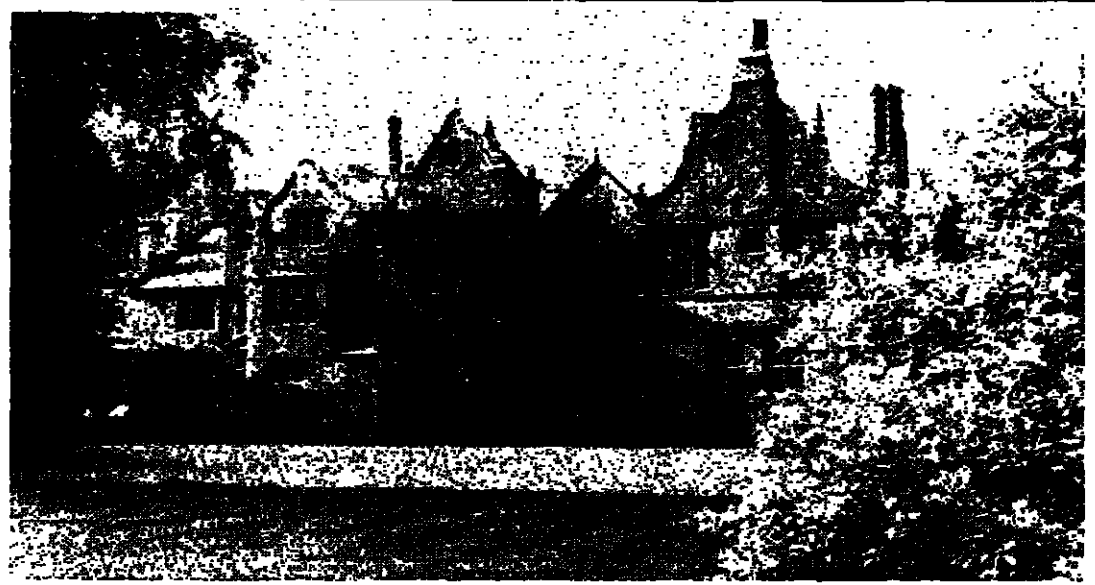


World of Islam Festival Trust director Alistair Duncan.

"None of our books will ever be commercial best sellers, but they are classics and will always remain so."

Considering its somewhat hand-to-mouth existence, WIFT's achievements are laudatory. "But there is so much more

we could be doing," argued Duncan. "We need £100,000 a year if we are to continue, and I believe that we must continue. Our role is unique. It is neither theological nor political; we try to maintain a balance of trust between Muslim and non-Muslim. We have access to the best brains and contacts at the highest levels and have a number of major projects in the pipeline. Our work has invaluable long-term potential but I am afraid much will have to go to waste" — Academic File.



The beauty of a Britain from another era

## Britain discovers that it pays to have a past

By Kate Dourian

Reuter

YORK, England — Packaged tours to the past have become a profit-maker for British leisure firms exploiting a growing fascination with history.

Thousands of tourists visit model ancient villages peopled by wax figures. Baronial homes are being converted into hotels, Roman villas restored, and ancient titles dusted and auctioned off.

"Heritage and tradition are one of the greatest pulls, especially for Americans," said June Primmer of the British Tourist Board.

One firm staking its future on the past is heritage projects, which figures among a growing crop of companies specialising in the thriving "Heritage Industry."

Using advanced technology, they make the past accessible with model houses, wax figures, theme parks and other scenic recreations of history.

Some academics worry that this trivialises history. But Heritage Managing Director Anthony Gaynor takes pride in comparisons of his company's creations to Disneyland.

"Why do people come to Britain? It's not for sun-soaked beaches or the climate. They come because of its contribution to the world today," said Gaynor, whose York-based company has a chain of model villages and theme parks around the country.

Its first venture followed the discovery of Viking remains beneath the streets of York, then called Jorvik. The 15,000 objects ranged from 10th century socks to coins and pottery.

As archaeologists peeled back the debris of centuries, houses and workshops emerged, still

containing the vestiges of everyday life in a 1,000-year old village.

Rather than sweep them away, the firm's founders created the Jorvik Viking centre, a creation of a Viking village which has become one of the country's most popular admission-charging tourist spots since opening in 1984.

### Time cars

Visitors ride in electronic "time cars" past scenes of Viking life in a dimly lit cavern where sights, sounds and smells of yore are recreated.

As the time car glides through the streets of the model village, the stench emanating from a structure designed as a 10th century cesspit is unmistakable.

The firm went to a company specialising in removing toxic waste to help create the authentic scent.

Jorvik has been emulated in Canterbury, where Chaucer's Canterbury Tales are brought alive visually, in Oxford, where centuries of academic have been carved out of wax and clay, and in Edinburgh where the city's history is portrayed.

Tunbridge Wells is soon to have its "day at the wells" theme park while a coal museum will depict life in the Victorian "Black Country" mines.

Tourism is one of the fastest growing major industries in Britain. Provisional estimates for 1988 revenue are expected to top \$26.1 billion, two or three per cent up on the previous year. Tourism earnings by the 1990s are projected to exceed \$37 million.

When historical data is exhausted, heritage projects can turn to myth and tradition for

future inspiration, said Gaynor in his office which has a view of York minster. Inside the minster, which was visited by more than two million people in 1987, tourists can contribute to upkeep costs in return for certificates stating the minutes their donation adds to the life of the medieval structure.

### Auctioning lordships

For those with at least \$12,000 to spare, there's always the English aristocracy which is providing investment opportunities in the heritage market.

In an office in Chelmsford, east of London, Ray Knappet oversees preparations for auctioning lordships of the manor.

In the past decade, British aristocrats whose bank balances do not match the wealth of their pedigrees have been selling ancestral titles held by their families for centuries.

The title gives anyone the right to become lord of a piece of land on paper, and it sometimes carries other centuries-old rights.

The lordship of east Horsley, sold in 1986 for \$17,600, comes with the obsolete "droit de seigneur" which gives the lord first right to lie with peasant girls on their wedding night.

A more recent sale involved the lordship of the manor of Stratford-upon-Avon, birthplace of Britain's most enduring export — William Shakespeare — which sold for \$152,250.

"What you buy is a piece of history, an asset which can be valued as property," said Knappet, who counts clients from the United States, the Middle East and Europe as customers.

Japanese and Americans formed the bulk of the 67 million visitors to the 427,980 listed buildings in Britain in 1987.

A Japanese businessman was so enamoured of a Scottish castle that he asked British Rail to quote him a price for transporting the structure stone by stone to Japan. Masahiko Tsugawa had to abandon the plan when told it was not feasible.

Water resources in Uganda have been a major cause of disease. Now attempts are being made to ensure the delivery of safe water to the people.

By Richard G. Mugga

GENEVA — The reforms begun in Uganda have concentrated among other areas on removing one major source of distress and disease in the country — unclean water.

Most country areas of Uganda suffer from a serious lack of adequate water supply. A large proportion of the population does not have reasonable access to safe water and is without facilities for hygienic waste disposal. Particularly in remote communities, water sources are either absent, inadequate, distant, polluted or unreliable. The consequences are the obvious ones: hardship and disease.

Most rural communities cannot afford to pay for building, operating and maintaining their own water supply systems, so the government has to provide improved sources of water as a general service. Since water is a limited and valuable resource, and since its development requires high investment, it must be efficiently used and must be safeguarded at the highest national level.

In the pre-colonial days, water used to be collected from natural sources. People used to collect water from such rivers as the Nile, Mayanja or Agago and from natural springs and dug wells. All these sources were open to contamination.

Subsequently most of the boreholes were drilled during the colonial days. But when one looks at their distribution throughout the country, most of them are concentrated in the east and north of Uganda, while very few are found in Buganda, Toro and elsewhere.

### Ten-point programme

The present government has as its primary objective to establish a working democracy based on direct popular participation both as regards decision-making and putting policies into effect. That is why democracy tops the Ten-point Programme. Development programmes are planned with the full realisation that rural areas will continue to contain the bulk of the population and to provide the backbone to the economy for many decades to come.

Improved rural water supply is meant to promote economic growth in these country areas. A new water supply may even encourage permanent settlement in a particular area, and influence migration patterns by slowing down rural-to-urban migration rates. And, of course, better health is expected to be a direct consequence.

Among the constraints to providing water supply systems in the countryside are the lack of any pre-existing organisation, administration, finance and community participation. And the major problems encountered in rural

## Water power in Uganda

When water is rationed for drinking and preparing food, it leaves very little for maintaining personal hygiene. Hardly surprisingly, people will prefer to draw water from a nearby stream which may be severely polluted rather than trek to a distant borehole.

Any attempt to provide an alternative source must have some advantage that the people will appreciate and the most obvious one may be convenience. Apart from using water for drinking and watering animals, river water can also be tapped for irrigation schemes, fish growing, recreation or to provide small-scale electricity power for local use.

All such activities which contribute directly and indirectly to the better health of the people concerned also contribute tremendously to rural development and the agrarian revolution.

It has been proved that the incidence of water-related diseases cannot be reduced by supplying safe water alone. It must be accompanied by improved hygiene, health education and improved sanitation. Through health education the community should be made aware that water drawn from a treated or good source can be contaminated during transport to or storage in their homes.

Some of the water-related diseases depend for their spread on

material from human and animal faeces getting into drinking water. The chain of transmission may be broken by safe disposal of faeces as well as by protecting the water supplies. So it is important to improve sanitary excreta disposal by encouraging the use of properly constructed latrines and reducing indiscriminate defecation in or near water sources.

Indeed, it is no use developing community water supply and sanitation unless people are at the same time aware of the health impact. From a public health point of view the essential requirements of a community water supply are safety, adequacy, convenience and continuity. Water-borne epidemics in Uganda are mainly associated with communal water supplies; and the larger the community, the greater the population exposed to risk at any one time.

### Water-borne disease

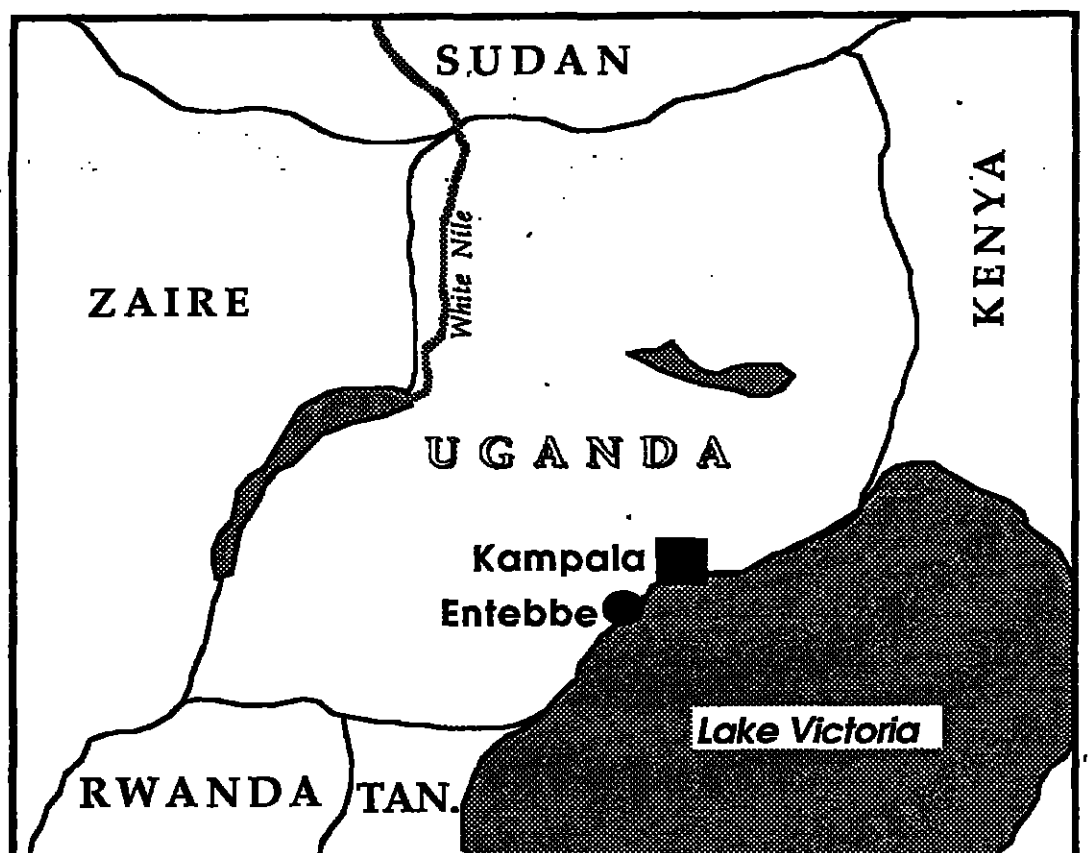
The most serious water-borne diseases, apart from cholera and typhoid fever, include dysentery, gastro-enteritis and certain virus infections. Lack of personal hygiene where water supply is limited can result in trachoma, scabies and yaws. New reservoirs and irrigation ditches may form breeding grounds for insects that transmit malaria and filariasis, or may provide a habitat for the water-snails that spread schistosomiasis or the cyclops that cause dracunculiasis (guinea worm).

The government intends to provide more protection for springs and shallow well construction, to maintain existing valley tanks and build new ones, to drill new boreholes and increase the use of the windmills to pump water, to rehabilitate existing piped water systems, and to extend the existing gravity-fed systems.

Village communities have already shown that, given proper guidance, they can protect their own springs without waiting for the government or any other agency to provide construction materials such as cement.

Shallow well construction has proved less successful because it calls for so much skilled labour; in any case they dry up during drought periods when water is needed most. The Ministry of Water Resources has acquired several new rotary drilling rigs to supplement those already procured with the help of international development agencies. Local pump repairers are being trained to cover the whole country and to be linked with the new borehole drilling programmes.

Since water is life, a good water supply has high priority, and Uganda has to rely first and foremost on its own strength, resources and abilities. The improvement in the quantity and quality of the water available to the people will undoubtedly promote better health for everybody, and this in turn will help to speed up the whole country's development process. — Academic File.



## Uganda & a country of comparable population -- Sri Lanka

	Uganda	Sri Lanka
Population mid-1986	15.2m	16.1m
Area in thousands		
of square kms	236	66
GNP per capita 1986	\$230	\$400
Major oil exporter?	No	No
Inflation 1980-86 average	75% a year	13.5% a year
Life expectancy	48 years	70 years
Food production per capita on a scale of 100 1984-86	111	85
Total estimated reserves '86	\$29m	\$377m
Total estimated debt '86	\$1,193m	\$4,119m

Source: World Development Report 1988.

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## L. America to pursue debt relief goals

CIUDAD GUAYANA, Venezuela (R) — Foreign ministers of the Group of eight Latin American countries, while welcoming a new U.S. debt initiative, agreed to continue promoting their own plan for relief on the region's \$401 billion debt.

In a communique issued Saturday after a meeting here, they said Latin America should promote these proposals when the Inter-American Development Bank holds its annual meeting in Amsterdam next week and at the IMF Interim Committee meeting in Washington in April.

"The foreign ministers considered it necessary to use forthcoming international financial meetings... to give priority to the Rio De Janeiro document," it said.

This document, drawn up by seven Latin American finance ministers in the Brazilian city last December, proposes debt reduction without conditions attached as well as guaranteed new

financing.

The Group of Eight meeting also produced agreement between Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia to speed up economic aid to Central America.

The debt plan announced Friday by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has evoked generally positive reaction from Latin American governments, but Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said it did not go far enough.

"This is a very timid step which does not meet the basic aspirations of our people," he told reporters here Friday.

The Brady plan envisages using existing resources in the World Bank and the International

Monetary Fund to guarantee debt reduction schemes for countries that adopt fund-approved economic adjustment programmes.

At the meeting here, the foreign ministers of Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, and a senior official of Brazil's foreign ministry agreed to take their debt proposals to a meeting with the European Community in Granada, Spain, on April 15.

"(This meeting) is an important opportunity to strengthen the dialogue on international financial developments, foreign debt and trade," the communique said.

At a news conference Saturday, the foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela announced an initiative of the three countries to intensify economic aid to Central America.

Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solana said the programme involved technical support,

tariff concessions and a more efficient channelling of financial aid through the Caribbean Development Bank and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

"There would not be an increase in financing in the short term, but more efficient use of funds," he said.

Solana said the new plan did not contemplate lifting a suspen-

sion on Venezuelan and Mexican oil shipments to Nicaragua, which he said continued to be a financial matter tied to Nicaragua's ability to settle its debts.

But Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris said he saw a recent improvement in Nicaragua's political situation leading to increased economic aid and a solution to the oil suspen-

## De Beers reports dazzling '88 profit

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African diamond giant De Beers has said its profits more than doubled last year as the gem market made a sparkling recovery from a five-year slump.

De Beers Consolidated Mines, which controls about 80 per cent of the world's diamonds, said after-tax profit jumped to 2.09 billion rand (\$877 million) in the year ended last Dec. 31 from 1.04 billion rand (\$536 million).

"A number of factors combined to enable us to come out with this pleasing result," De Beers Chairman Julian Ogilvie Thompson told a news conference in Johannesburg.

"The results reflect both an increase in sales volumes and higher diamond prices, which were last raised in May 1988," he noted.

Pre-tax profit rose 88 per cent to 2.87 billion rand (\$1.20 billion) and the company lifted its total dividend to 200 cents (84 U.S. cents) from 110 cents (46 U.S. cents).

The company's soaring profits followed a report in January by De Beers' London-based Central Selling Organisation that sales of rough gems and industrial diamonds soared 36 per cent to a record \$4.17 billion in 1988, confirming a recovery in the diamond market since a deep slump that began in 1981.

"We don't expect retail diamond sales to grow quite as well this year as in 1988, but indications are that our main markets are continuing to expand," Ogilvie Thompson said.

De Beers was closely watching whether higher interest rates and the firm dollar would reduce

sales, particularly in Japan which accounts for 22 per cent of diamond jewellery sales.

"There was some hesitation in Japan in the latter half of last year, but it's too early at this point to have firm figures for these markets," Ogilvie Thompson said.

Stock market analysts said the earnings rise and marked increase in the dividend signalled De Beers' confidence that the extraordinary boom in the diamond market would continue, though probably at a slightly slower rate.

"The broad picture seems that just about everything went well for them. The profit on the diamond account is restored to boom-time levels," said John Rogers, a partner at Johannesburg stockbroker firm Edey, Rogers, and Company Inc.

"The advance in the dividend particularly indicates that these results are not a flash in the pan," he added.

During the depression in the diamond business from 1981 to 1986, De Beers substantially increased its stockpile of gems and reduced its allocation of rough uncut diamonds to dealers and jewellery manufacturers in Antwerp, Tel Aviv, Bombay, New York and other diamond cutting centres.

The tactic later paid off handsomely as demand slowly recovered in response to the tighter supplies.

"If we felt there was a further hesitancy in the market, we would not hesitate ourselves to reduce our sales again," said Ogilvie Thompson. "That is our strategy and it is one that works."

## U.S. faces growing inflation as unemployment decreases

NEW YORK (R) — The United States faces a growing threat of inflation with the lowest unemployment in 15 years threatening to push up wages.

The government last week said the U.S. unemployment rate fell to 5.1 per cent in February from 5.4 per cent in January, better than most forecasts. A record 62.9 per cent of the U.S. civilian working age population held jobs.

But the improved job situation points to a growing threat from higher wage demands which in turn would push up inflation.

Many economists saw the report foreshadowing a new set of problems for the economy.

"We're at the point where low unemployment means a scarcity of workers and that will require businesses to pay a good deal more to find qualified help," said Stephen Roach, an economist with Morgan Stanley and Co.

Businesses created 289,000 new jobs in February — a much slower pace than a month earlier, when 415,000 jobs were added and below the average monthly pace of about 300,000 in 1988.

But the reduced rate of hiring, some economists say, is the result of a dwindling pool of qualified applicants and not a clear sign of a much-hoped-for economic slowdown which would ease inflation worries.

Nevertheless, the job growth was still on the high end of expectations, which ranged from 205,000 to 305,000.

Encouragingly, the average hourly wage rose by only one cent to \$9.51 an hour in February after rising 6 cents in January.

But Daniel Van Dyke of BankAmerica Corp. said: "As labour markets continue to tighten, wage inflation is going to increase."

The Federal Reserve's response will likely be new efforts to cool the economy by nudging up interest rates although that is probably some weeks off, economists said.

Economist Charles Lieberman of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. said that typically about 75 per cent of the nation's total inflation rate was generated by increases in wages and salaries. And wage inflation is created as businesses compete for a diminishing supply of workers.

Economists expect the rate of wage inflation to rise to about five per cent this year from about 4.1 per cent in 1988.

Analysts see Bush budget deficit at \$131 billion

Meanwhile, congressional budget analysts said President Bush's 1990 budget plan would lead to a deficit of \$131 billion, more than 30 per cent higher than the figure projected by the White House.

The forecast by the highly regarded Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a non-partisan arm of Congress, is expected to

make Bush's task of selling his budget to the Democratic-controlled legislature more difficult.

The White House has said its budget plans would cut the deficit from \$163 billion in the 1989 financial year to \$91 billion in 1990. It includes \$3 billion from sales of government property that Congress has opposed in the past.

However, CBO Director Robert Reischauer told the Senate Appropriations Committee that most of the higher deficit estimate was due to a difference in accounting for the cost to the government of the crisis in the U.S. savings and loan industry.

The CBO added the \$25 billion cost of the savings and loan rescue plan to the deficit and the White House did not, as the financing would be private with government sponsorship.

If both this cost and the \$3 billion in assets sales were excluded, the administration would narrowly fit in the \$100 billion to \$110 billion deficit target for 1990, he said.

The congressional analysts also assumed the economy would grow less rapidly and interest rates would be higher than the White House has forecast for 1989 and 1990, adding \$9 billion to the administration's deficit estimate.

CBO also estimated that Bush's proposal to cut the tax rate on capital gains to 15 per cent from 28 per cent would raise \$3 billion in 1990 but would lose \$4 billion in 1991 and would lose more through 1993.

## Rafsanjani appeals to Khomeini to 'guide' fight against inflation

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's influential speaker of parliament urged spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Saturday to intervene personally in the fight against inflation and unemployment.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, attending a meeting with Khomeini, cabinet ministers and parliamentary deputies at a Tehran mosque, described rising

prices and job shortages as serious problems.

IRNA said he told the ayatollah that while the authorities were attending to the problems, "we need some form of guidance and intervention in greater detail from your excellency so we can solve these problems at this stage."

Rafsanjani said he had raised the issues with Khomeini before

but did not give details. He made his comments amid mounting press criticism of price rises.

The daily newspaper Ettelaat has criticised government officials for painting a rosy economic picture just because people were not starving.

It attacked soaring prices before the Iranian new year and questioned whether poor families could survive the inflation.

Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi last week defended his government's economic performance as a success and said keeping inflation below 24 per cent was a miracle.

Kayhan newspaper said prices were out of control in private shops and government stores were not fully stocked.

IRNA said many members of parliament during the current budget debate expressed concern about high levels of domestic borrowing.

## High unemployment, overmanning characterise Algerian economic woes

ALGIERS (R) — Over-manning is a chronic problem in Algeria, where a visitor to a government ministry can draw more attention than most new arrivals at a five-star hotel.

Groups of weather-beaten old men hang around a reception desk arguing over who should use the one available telephone. The visitor is handed from "minder" to "minder" on his way to a meeting.

The willing helpers are often mujahideen, former resistance fighters who won the country's independence from France in a bitter eight-year war.

"We have to give them jobs. We owe them so much," a government minister explained.

The statement says much about Algeria today.

Well-intentioned socialism has left it with inefficient over-manned industries. With one of the highest schooling rates in the Third World, the government is faced with the mammoth task of finding jobs for 110,000 school-leavers each year.

The old fighters are in themselves no problem as natural wastage takes its toll. In another 10 years, Algeria will have paid off one debt it is happy to carry.

What is far more worrying for President Chadli Benjedid is that recently young men have started to replace the old ones.

Some 95 per cent of all Algeria's foreign currency earnings comes from hydrocarbon exports.

The country's economic problems stem from the mid-1980s oil price collapse which forced a drastic cut in imports and an austerity drive.

Chadli has told the people belt-tightening will continue while the government steps up efforts to wean the economy off a dependence on oil and gas revenues.

The winds of free competition are to be allowed to blow fresh life into the state-dominated sector and a small private sector given room to grow.

Chadli has signalled the pill by offering political liberalism after the measures provoked bloody riots last October. But with little prospect of the economy impro-

ving in the short-term that may not be enough to stop more unrest.

"It is difficult to see where they go from here. If they really want to make these industries efficient, that means firing people," a Western diplomat said.

Unemployment in Algeria was 25 per cent in 1988. Two-thirds of the population of around 24 million is under 25 years old. Current population trends will see it hit 36 million by 2010.

Groups of bored, unemployed youths hang around teeming inner-city districts where on average nine people share one room.

"These guys were the ones that rioted, and it is difficult to believe

political reforms will satisfy them," the diplomat said.

Chadli and his reformers argue that political diversity, as evidenced by the creation of a multi-party system, will be matched in the economic sphere.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, March 12, 1989  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	528.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	415.9	419.3
Pound Sterling	923.2	930.6	Dutch guilder	256.0	258.0
Deutschemark	288.5	291.1	Swedish crown	84.5	85.1
Swiss franc	337.7	340.5	Italian lira (for 100)	39.4	39.7
French franc	85.2	85.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	138.0	139.1

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**IRBID JERASH HIGHWAY**  
**(SECTION III)**

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MPWH) is inviting previously prequalified contractors who wish to participate in this tender. The project is financed by the OECF Japanese Loan. Tender copies will be available at the Tenders Directorate starting Mar. 13, 1989 according to the following stipulations:

- Scope of work:  
The project consists of 16 km four-lane highway linking Zarqa Bridge to Baqaa including one bridge and three underpasses.  
Summary of main items of work:  
1. Excavation 3,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>  
2. Pavement 840,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
3. Concrete 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>
- Cost of each copy of Tender Documents is JD 500. — and no refunds will be made.
- Last date for purchase of tender documents is April 1st, 1989.
- Site visit will be conducted on April 1st, 1989 and a pretender meeting will be held at MPWH on April 3rd, 1989.
- The Central Tenders Committee reserves the right to award the tender to the lowest responsive tenderer provided his ceiling permits such award.
- Tenders shall be submitted at the Government Tenders Directorate not later than 1:30 afternoon on April 12, 1989.

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# Poland heads for democracy

**WARSAW (R)** — Poland's top communist and non-communist leaders, in apparently convergent statements, said at the weekend that political reforms were setting the country on the road to democracy.

Communist Party leader, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, was quoted as telling Warsaw regional party officials that Poland was on the way to becoming a "socialist parliamentary democracy."

He said the party had to create a new political system able to meet Poland's economic and social needs.

"The road to reforms has been charted out. We must tread it, complete it," the official PAP news agency quoted Jaruzelski as saying.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa simultaneously told advisers that a new and unknown stage in Poland's development was beginning as government-opposition reform talks neared their close.

"That stage will hopefully lead to democracy and freedom," Walesa said.

The two leaders were referring to political and parliamentary reforms agreed at the five-week-old talks on Poland's future.

Under the reforms, the communists will give up their majority in the Sejm (lower house), relying on allied groups to help control the house, and permit the opposition 35 per cent of the seats in "non-confrontational" elections.

A new democratically-elected Senate (upper house) will be

simultaneously created.

In exchange, the opposition has agreed to the creation of a presidency, expected to be held by Jaruzelski, with strong executive powers including the right to dismiss parliament.

The government will also legalise Solidarity and other unions and permit liberalisation in other fields.

The reforms have aroused opposition in the Communist Party and the policy-making Central Committee is expected to meet this week to debate them.

But Jaruzelski told Warsaw Regional Party officials Saturday the reform package was the way Poland had to go to achieve peaceful development.

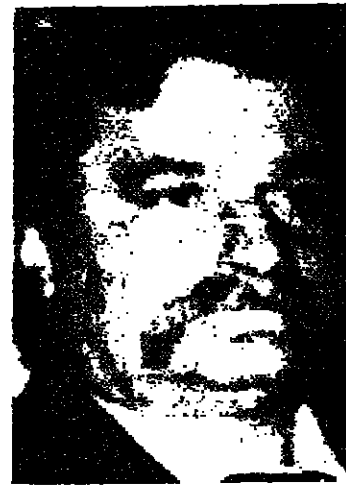
"We are paying dearly for the skin-deep solutions of previous years," he added. "They have resulted in bureaucratic stagnation, sham solutions, sluggishness



Wojciech Jaruzelski

and resistance in society to the economic decision that are needed."

Jaruzelski said the proposed



Lech Walesa

changes would involve "a great role for the party, namely to create a political and moral structure that can meet social and economic targets."

## Plot thickens in Greek scandal

**ATHENS (AP)** — The State Department has denied that a self-proclaimed Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent who alleged that the American agency was behind a multi-million dollar scandal, which has rocked the ruling Socialists, ever worked for the U.S. government.

The purported agent, Tom Mallis, told a parliamentary fact-finding committee last week that a fugitive Greek banker was a CIA employee trying to destabilise Greece.

The State Department, in a

statement, released to the AP Sunday through the U.S. embassy in Athens, denied Mallis ever worked for the agency.

"The United States government categorically states that the reported allegations of Mr. Tom Mallis concerning his connections with the U.S. government are completely without foundation," the statement said.

The statement, issued "as an exception to our general policy of not commenting on such matters," added that "neither

he nor the others he reportedly has alleged to work for the CIA now work or ever have worked for the CIA."

A spokesperson for the U.S. embassy here, who requested anonymity, said the statement was given to the state-run television and radio networks Saturday.

Th statement's arrival Saturday came shortly before Premier Andreas Papandreu threatened the United States that there would be "consequences" if banker-publisher George Koskotas was not

quickly extradited to Greece.

"I am sending a message to Washington that if he is not extradited soon to face justice, there will be consequences. I pledge this," Papandreu told parliament Saturday.

He did not describe the "consequences" but made a reference to his government's decision to shut down one of four U.S. military installations in Greece.

He said talks on a new U.S. bases agreement were continuing, "but their (bases) time of stay in Greece is running out

daily."

Papandreu was in parliament to respond to allegations that his ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) was involved in the financial scandal surrounding Koskotas, the former chairman of the Bank of Crete.

The main conservative opposition New Democracy Party submitted the censure motion Thursday on the grounds that alleged government involvement in the Koskotas scandal posed a "danger for democracy and Greece."

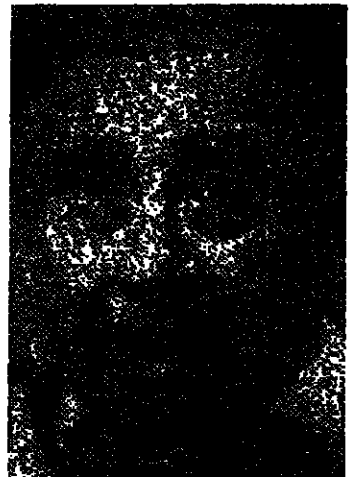
## Pinochet considers reforms

**SANTIAGO (R)** — General Augusto Pinochet, beginning his last year as president Saturday, agreed to consider constitutional reforms urged both by his right-wing supporters and by opposition parties to smoothen Chile's transition to democracy.

In a speech to the nation, Pinochet said he would consider abolishing the presidency's powers to exile opponents and to close down the congress that will be chosen in general elections in December.

He also agreed to study changes in the military-controlled National Security Council (NSC) and in a constitutional article banning Marxist parties — two major opposition demands.

"I have instructed the interior minister to inform me on the suitability of introducing these



Augusto Pinochet

reforms, as long as there is the necessary consensus to carry them out before the elections," he said.

Pinochet had firmly rejected reforming the constitution since his bid to extend his rule another eight years was defeated in a presidential plebiscite last October.

## Soviet, S. African academics hold talks

**LONDON (R)** — Soviet and South African academics held three days of unannounced talks near London last week in a sign of the Kremlin's changing policy towards South Africa, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper said.

The discussions in a country hotel followed Soviet endorsement of the United Nations settlement for Namibia and Angola.

"I believe that last week we witnessed a fundamental, weather-change in the attitudes of Moscow to problems in southern Africa," John Killick, a former British ambassador to Moscow who presided over the discussions, was quoted as saying.

The Soviet side reported that Moscow did not wish to see the African National Congress (ANC) develop into a military threat against Pretoria, he said.

They also made clear the Kremlin's desire for negotiations between South Africa and the ANC with the abolition of apartheid forming part of a negotiated transfer of power, Killick said.

The newspaper said the Soviet delegation was led by Anatoly Gromyko, director of the Soviet Academy of Science's Institute for African Affairs.

The South Africans included Philip Nel and Willie Breytenbach of Stellenbosch University.

"It was not in any sense a secret meeting," Killick said. "It was discreet. Its purpose was to exchange views, to promote better understanding."

But he also said: "It would be premature to say they were intended to lead to Soviet and South African government direct contact."

## Thatcher heads IRA hit list

**LONDON (R)** — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher headed an Irish Republican Army (IRA) hit list found by police three months ago, the Sunday Times reported.

Police declined Saturday to disclose the identities of the suspected targets on the list found in an IRA bomb factory, but news reports said security has been stepped up for 200 politicians, judges and army officers.

"We can confirm that a number of names of people prominent in public life in Britain were found in the house," police said. "Each individual named has been given suitable security advice."

The Sunday Times said Thatcher was at the top of the death list. It said police believe an IRA hit

squad is hiding in Britain and includes an assassin trained in long-range sniping.

Police are still looking for two suspected IRA guerrillas believed linked to a house in south London where a large quantity of Semtex plastic explosive was discovered three months ago.

According to news reports, legislators involved in Northern Ireland affairs have been assigned armed police guards and told to stop giving television interviews on an exposed green near parliament.

"I have clearly upset the IRA by what I have been saying and they appear to want to kill me," one parliamentarian, who was not identified, was quoted as telling the Sunday Times. "The police have taken the threat

seriously enough to give me armed protection."

Last week police uncovered more Semtex buried in scrubland near a town in northern England where Thatcher is due to attend a political conference March 17.

Police said they were investigating whether the cache was part of an IRA plot to assassinate Thatcher or if it was intended for attacks on nearby army bases.

Security sources said Tuesday they feared a major IRA campaign aimed at key political and military targets.

The IRA, which is fighting a guerrilla campaign to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, came close to killing Thatcher in a bomb attack in 1984 in the southern English resort of Brighton.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bush gets 62% approval

**NEW YORK (R)** — Sixty-two per cent of Americans approve of President George Bush's performance in office despite bitter controversy over his choice of John Tower as defence secretary, a Newsweek poll said Saturday. Bush's approval rating rose from 55 per cent last month, and only 16 per cent said they disapproved of the way Bush is handling his job, the news magazine's poll said. The president received a 51 per cent approval rating in a Gallup poll in January and 55 per cent in a Times-Mirror poll in February, according to Newsweek. Americans were nearly evenly split over Bush's handling of the Tower nomination, with 46 per cent of those surveyed saying the president should have withdrawn Tower's name, and 43 per cent saying Bush handled the issue "about right."

### Andersson phone tapped

**STOCKHOLM (AP)** — Sweden's Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said Saturday he believed his telephone had been tapped and expressed the fear that phones of other high officials also had been bugged. Andersson, speaking in a Swedish radio interview, answered with a decisive "yes" when asked whether he thought he had been bugged, but decision to mention any suspects saying he

lacked evidence. "I know I've been bugged... it's very alarming," he said, adding that efforts to track down the perpetrators had been unsuccessful. Other officials of Andersson's ruling Social Democratic Party have complained of illegal eavesdropping. Allegations have been raised by Swedish news papers pointing to extensive wire tapping as part of an unofficial investigation last year into the unsolved murder of Swedish Premier Olof Palme. The papers reported that prosecutors planned to indict six to eight Swedes in the case.

### Haitian boat capsizes

**HAVANA (R)** — A Haitian boat headed for the United States capsized off the coast of Cuba Saturday and 23 people drowned, Prensa Latina news agency reported. It said the small ship "Archahia" was carrying 166 emigrants when it left Haiti. Stormy seas had apparently forced it to steer towards the Cuban coast where it crashed against the reefs and capsized, the Cuban news agency said. Quick action by troops of the frontier guards and national police helped rescue survivors, Prensa Latina stated. The Haitians received medical care, clothing and food, and the ship was brought to shore to be repaired by Cuban workers. Cuban authorities were investigating the accident near Puerto Rico began in the eastern Cuban province of Holguin.

## Violations surface in Venezuela riots

**CARACAS (AP)** — Allegations are surfacing of police firing indiscriminately and torturing arrestees during the outbreak of riots in Caracas two weeks ago.

The leftist Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) and human rights committees also say that 42 people have not been seen since the riots. The state Military Intelligence Direction (DIM) denies the use of torture and says only 13 people are still being held.

Others are reportedly being held and questioned by the DIS-IP, the political police, according to the Federation of Students.

Amnesty International has called on the government to investigate whether human rights were violated during and after the riots, which broke out following the imposition of economic austerity measures.

Congressman Teodoro Petkoff charged Friday at the end of a joint session of congress that "indiscriminate gunfire" by the army and the police had killed dozens in the Caracas slums.

Petkoff also said that 19 people were killed in the Nueva Tacagua shantytown after the city had fallen under martial law and looting had stopped.

According to Petkoff, Angel Ramos, 19, was shot and injured in Nueva Tacagua, taken away in a police truck and thrown down a ravine.

"The police shot at him as he was rolling down, but he survived by playing dead," he said.

The riots, which were triggered by an increase in bus fares, began throughout Venezuela Feb. 27. A day later, as looting and pitched battles with the police continued in Caracas, the government decreed a nation-wide state of emergency, suspended civil rights and sent out the army.

Congress Friday approved a government request to continue the civil rights suspension indefinitely.

Official figures give a death toll of 257, plus almost 2,000 injured. But human rights activists said the final number of victims could go over 300.

Many of the deaths occurred after the street fighting and looting had ceased, when the army was patrolling the streets. Dozens were reportedly killed in their homes, either by wild bullets or by the hail of bullets soldiers fired at snipers.

## Botha abandoned as he clings to power

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — Since his recent stroke, President P.W. Botha has lost his stature as the domineering master of South African politics. Suddenly, he is depicted as a tragic figure, clinging to power against the wishes of former loyalists.

The men who have done Botha's bidding for a decade are now engaged in a concerted campaign to push him into retirement. Last week, he signalled his intention to fight back, but there has been a dramatic lack of public support for the man whose tough tactics earned him the nickname "the great crocodile."

The result, for the moment, is an unprecedented power struggle between Botha and his heir apparent, Education Minister F.W. de Klerk.

De Klerk took over as leader of the governing National Party when Botha resigned that post Feb. 2, two weeks after his stroke.

Since then, de Klerk has consolidated his support among nationalist members of parliament and has made no move to disavow feasibility.

Botha, 73, struck back last week by announcing that he planned to return to work Wednesday, two weeks earlier than expected. He gave no indication he was considering early retirement or a power-sharing arrangement with de Klerk.

De Klerk and three senior party leaders emerged tight-lipped

from talks with Botha Thursday. The talks were "incisive," de Klerk said, and would resume at a later date.

"The Crisis Continues," said the front-page headline the next day in Beeld, a pro-government daily.

Members of the National Party caucus were briefed by de Klerk about the talks with Botha. Although sworn to secrecy, several of the legislators were quoted anonymously in the press as saying there was almost unanimous support in the caucus for de Klerk and widespread anger at Botha's perceived intransigence.

South African political correspondents reported that many caucus members blamed Botha's attitude on misleading information provided by his inner circle of advisers during his convalescence at a vacation home, because of this misinformation, several reports said, Botha had underestimated the depth of caucus support for de Klerk and overestimated its loyalty to the president.

In the aftermath of the de Klerk-Botha meeting, there was sympathy for the president among party officials, wrote Business Day political reporter Mike Robertson. "Because, having been sheltered by his personal staff, it was probably the first time he had been confronted with the reality that virtually the entire caucus wanted his reign to end."

## Rightists expect to win in El Salvador

**SAN SALVADOR (R)** — Thousands of rightists singing "El Salvador will be the tomb of the reds" rallied to hear presidential candidate Alfredo Cristiani pledge an end to civil war, poverty and government corruption if he is elected.

In a hard-hitting speech Saturday to a crowd who turned a downtown square into a sea of blue, white and red, Cristiani, the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) candidate said he was prepared to hold talks with leftist guerrillas but only to negotiate their surrender.

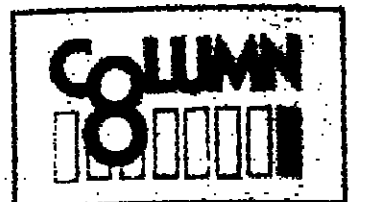
"ARENA is not going to allow them to come to power at gun-

point. If they want to set off bombs they can go to Cuba or Nicaragua," he said. "We are ready to back our armed forces to the utmost against those who don't want peace."

Cristiani is favoured to win the March 19 elections but surveys indicate he might fall short of the absolute majority needed, which would necessitate a run-off.

He lashed out at President Jose Napoleon Duarte's government as a corrupt and incompetent puppet of Washington which had brought the country to its knees.

He pledged pragmatic economic policies, social welfare programmes and jobs for all.



## Romeo, Juliet marriage turns sour

**SYRACUSE, Sicily (R)** — A man aged 90 and his 70-year-old wife have separated a year after eloping to get married, according to Italian newspapers. The newspapers quoted Giuseppina Scandura Saturday as saying she had packed her bags and gone back to her own home because married life with Alfio Fiamma had been "13 months of hell." The Sicilian couple, both previously widowed, made front-page news in Italy last year when they ran away to marry because their children opposed the match.

## Strip-tease gets principal suspended

**PATERSON, New Jersey (AP)** — Joe Clark, a high school principal who became famous for his no-nonsense discipline, has been ordered suspended because he arranged a school assembly at which four strippers performed. Officials said, Thursday's action marks another episode in the turbulent tenure of Clark of East-side high school. The principal's firm stand on discipline at the school to the new film "Lean On Me," which depicts Clark as a well-intentioned administrator whose tough tactics arouse controversy. The suspension was ordered by Paterson's superintendent of schools, Dr. Frank Napier, according to Robert G. Rosenberg, attorney for the Board of Education. The five-day suspension is due to begin Monday.

## Love keeps Burns going

**LOS ANGELES, Nevada (AP)** — George Burns says the love he receives from audiences is what keeps him going at age 93. Burns opens this week at Caesars Palace and has a best-selling book, "Gracie: A Love Story." Gracie Allen, Burns' wife, was his partner from 1923 until her retirement in 1959. She died in 1964. Burns, puffing on his ever-present cigar, said Tuesday he's still going strong "because of the love that comes over the footlights. That's what gives you the vitality," Burns, who has vowed to play the Palladium at age 100, has a long-term contract with Caesars. "Gracie" is the seventh book he's written. "Pretty good for a guy who's only read two," he joked.

## Actors honoured for efforts

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Actor Ben Vereen, columnist Ann Landers and country singer Tanya Wynette were honoured for their efforts to educate the public about mental illness and addiction. "I'm not proud of the fact that I once had a drug problem, but I am proud I did something about it," Wynette, who overcame dependency on prescription drugs, said Tuesday at an awards reception on Capitol Hill. "Let's be sympathetic, let's be kind, let's be caring and let's recognise the burden these people who have mental illness are carrying. I can't tell you how much pain, how much suffering is out there," Landers urged.

## Jazz history to be preserved

**KANSAS CITY, Missouri (R)** — Jazz buffs hope to secure an international jazz hall of fame in a dilapidated old waterworks and stable near a Kansas City intersection identified with count basic and the swing bands he led. Organisers seek to raise \$5 million to renovate the long-vacant buildings in a seedy district that once was a pulsing centre of America's unique contribution to music. Trumpeter Dizzie Gillespie, national chairman of the International Jazz Hall of Fame, is to announce the kickoff of the hall of fame effort Saturday at a Kansas City hotel. The centre is to include the Count Basie Academy of the Arts for Music instruction, the Mahalia Jackson University of Gospel Music, the Charlie Parker Dizzie Gillespie Institute of Jazz Masters and the John Baker film collection.

## Convicts caught during tea break

**LONDON (R)** — Two British convicts who made a successful break from prison, but not from tradition, were recaptured Saturday while taking afternoon tea. Ian Oppenshaw and John Corbett were arrested at a house less than 1.5 kilometres from high-security Dartmoor prison in Devon, southwest England, an area famous for its cream teas. Police said the escaped prisoners stopped at a house and asked for a cup of tea. A woman brewed up and then telephoned the authorities.

## Despite great technical advances, robots remain stupid

By Catherine Dressler  
Associated Press

**PITTSBURGH** — Scientists in the 1950s proclaimed the robot the wave of the future — it would free housewives of drudgery and fill factories with a tireless work force. But in many ways, the wave has been a washout.

Robots can paint cars, salvage nuclear fuel and even assist in brain surgery, but they're still pretty dumb.

"Robots now are significantly better than 30 years ago, but that doesn't necessarily mean we are anywhere close to an R2-D2 or C-3PO (the robot characters in the movie "Star Wars"), says Raj Reddy, director of the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

Experts say automating a factory is more complicated than just buying a robot and putting it on the assembly line. In addition, some industrial robots are too complicated and

prone to failure and, when they do work, they don't always fit in with factory operations.

Japan is the world's leading robot user, followed by the United States, West Germany and France. Robotics Industries Association spokesman Jeffrey A. Burnstein says about 33,000 robots work in the United States, mostly in manufacturing, with automakers buying at least 40 per cent.

"It's not a revolution. It's an evolution," Burnstein says. "Robots are another new, productive technology in the same way that computers were."

Reddy says robots are dumb "because we haven't taken the trouble to put the pieces together, not because we don't know how. That takes money and time and effort, and we don't have the money."

But today's robots can: — see. They don't see like humans, but they can recognise forms and shapes and measure distances through sonar,

ranging devices and lasers.

— hear and speak. They use computers that recognise thousands of words.

— smell. Their sensors can detect smoke or fumes.

— move. They most often roll on wheels, but some models hop on one leg. Others walk with as many as eight legs, ambulating like a spider on uneven terrain.

— touch. They can recognise texture and the force of a movement, such as pressing. Many robots have one or two of these abilities to some degree, but creating a competent robot that combines most or all of them has been difficult.

In addition, scientists have found it's difficult to match human abilities that most people take for granted, such as a finger's dexterity or the ability to identify objects.

"The list of things that robots can do better than humans is much, much shorter than the list of things robots

cannot," says Takeo Kanade, co-director of the Carnegie Mellon Institute.

Industrial robots can perform many tedious tasks with precision, including welding, assembling, painting, packaging and loading, yet Burnstein estimates less than 5 per cent of American companies have installed even one robot.

Japanese companies, which have installed more than twice as many, have been more willing to invest in robots that take years to pay for themselves, Burnstein says.

### Very expensive, not practical

"Robots are very expensive to make and they can do very little," says Hans Moravec, senior research scientist at Carnegie Mellon. "It's hard to find a job for them that actually pays off."

Industrial robots often shut down when even the slightest thing goes wrong, forcing humans to their aid, says Donald Michie, chief scientist of the

Turing Institute of Glasgow, Scotland, which conducts research into artificial intelligence.

Michie is trying to develop computers that learn from experience — a technology that could result in robots that adjust to changing circumstances and learn from mistakes.

Moravec believes technology will enable robots to have human-like intelligence in about 50 years.

Service robots, a new breed, are moving off the factory floor to handle work in hazardous environments, help the disabled, or just sweep floors. Underwater robots are examining lake bottoms and doing risky deep-sea work.

Doctors at memorial medical centre of long beach, California, have performed more than 35 brain operations with the help of a robot arm that guides surgeons as they drill into the skull.

Research is under way at Carnegie Mellon on a six-leg-

ged robot to explore the surface of Mars in the next decade and on a car that can drive itself. University researchers also made robots to remove radioactive waste from a crippled nuclear power plant.

### Robots for disabled

K.G. Engelhardt, director of the university's health and human services lab, is developing a robotic work station that allows the disabled, especially those without the use of their hands, to work in an office. The station should be marketed by the end of the year, selling for less than \$50,000, she says.

The work station has an arm that turns, bends and swivels as the user speaks commands into a microphone. It fetches things, looks up telephone numbers and dials the phone.

Joseph F. Engelberger has big corporate backers for his service robots. Projects in the works at his Transitions Research Corporations include

development of robots that will sweep or scrub floors in airports or supermarkets and fetch drugs for pharmacists in mail-order warehouses.

Another Engelberger robot is help-mate, a nurse's aide that delivers meals to hospital patients and makes other deliveries, such as taking a urine specimen to a lab.

Help-mate, designed to use elevators and negotiate hallways as it moves by itself on wheels, is being tested. Engelberger said it will go on sale for \$40,000 by year's end.

Engelberger hopes to get corporate backing to build his dream robot: a \$50,000 household helper that would prepare light meals, clean house and clear snow. But he can't figure out how to teach it to make beds.

He estimates it would take up to \$14 million and two-and-a-half years to develop, but American companies so far have been unwilling to make the initial investment.

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